

Luton & South Bedfordshire Joint Committee

24 June 2011

Agenda Item No 10.

AUTHOR	Assistant Director - Planning CBC – Trevor Saunders Senior Financial Advisor CBC – Phil Robinson
SUBJECT	The 2009/10 External Audit Report
PURPOSES	To receive the report and to consider its content
RECOMMENDATIONS	1) The Committee notes the report set out in Appendix A. 2) The Committee reviews the report relating to the Effectiveness of Internal Audit as set out in Appendix B.
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS	To give effect to the required governance arrangements for the efficient and effective operation of the Joint Committee

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 As this Committee is constituted as a joint committee, it is required to undergo an external audit under the provisions of the Audit Commission Act 1998. The Audit Commission appointed BDO Stoy Hayward to undertake this work in respect of the 2009/10 financial year. The audit work was concluded in May 2010. It is a requirement that the auditor's report is submitted to the Committee for consideration and therefore it is appended accordingly.

1.2 The accounts for 2009/10 were considered by the Committee on 23 July 2010.

2.0 THE AUDITORS REPORT

2.1 The audit report takes the form of an 'Issues Arising Report'. The following issues have resulted in the annual return being qualified (see Appendix A - page 3).

2.2 Accounting Statements not approved by 30 June 2010.

The auditors have recommended the body must ensure in future years that the accounting statements are approved, and signed as approved, by 30 June immediately following the end of the financial year.

2.3 Review of effectiveness of internal audit.

The auditors stated that the body did not review the effectiveness of its internal audit.

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006, regulation 6(3) is an explicit requirement for authorities to conduct a review at least annually of the effectiveness of its system of internal audit.

The external auditors have accepted that the review of the effectiveness of internal audit as undertaken by Central Bedfordshire Council adequately covers the Joint Committee but the issue was that the Committee had not been given the opportunity to review this report.

The report for 2010/11 has been accepted by the Chair of Central Bedfordshire Council's Audit Committee and members are asked to review this report (see Appendix B).

Appendices

Appendix A – External audit report

Appendix B – Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit