



**The Audit Committee
25th June 2008**

**Report from the Director of Finance
and Corporate Resources**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Audit Commission's Audit and Inspection Plan 2008/09

1 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Audit Committee with the Audit Commission's Audit and Inspection Plan 2008/09. Representative of the Commission will be attending the meeting.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Audit Committee note the content of the report in its role as defined in the constitution: "To consider ... the strategic and annual audit plans, and consider the level of assurance these can give over the council's corporate governance arrangements."

3 Detail

Audit Plans

- 3.1 External audit, for 2007/08 and onwards will be provided by the District Auditor, appointed by the Audit Commission. Members will be aware that this is a change in arrangement from the previous provider, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).
- 3.2 For 2008/09 internal and external audit will continue to work on the basis of a joint audit approach. This joint approach will reflect the requirements of the code of practice for external auditors. It will involve the sharing of plans, regular meetings and sharing of information during the course of the year. This will ensure that total audit resources are maximised and there is no duplication of work. The Audit and Inspection Plan submitted by the Audit Commission sets out their proposed areas of work. It is attached to this report along with the Code of Audit Practice and the Statement of responsibilities of auditors and of audited bodies. Representatives from the Audit Commission

will attend the meeting to introduce the Plan. Internal Audit's Plan for the current year is also on this agenda.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 None specific from the consideration of the report.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003² require that the Council has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

6 Diversity Implications

6.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no diversity implications arising from it.

7 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

7.1 None.

8 Background Papers

1. Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the UK
2. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003

9 Contact Officer details

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