



FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

**Standards and Audit Committee
Cabinet**

**28th March 2007
23rd April 2007**

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

Report of the Chief Finance Officer

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Every year, the Council's external auditor produces an Annual Audit Letter.
- 1.2 This summarises the work of the auditor in respect of the previous financial year (2005/06), and provides the auditor's views on the Council's performance, accounts, financial management arrangements, and arrangements for delivering value for money.
- 1.3 The auditor has until 31 March to complete the letter, which will be copied to members as soon as it is available.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to consider the report, and consider any comments made by the Standards and Audit Committee.

3. The Annual Audit Letter

- 3.1 The final text of the letter is not yet available, and is unlikely to be complete at the date of your meeting. This is because the Council's "direction of travel", the auditor's assessment of how well the Council is improving, is presently subject to review, the results of which are unlikely to be available in time for your meeting.
- 3.2 Consequently, the letter has been circulated to members of the Cabinet and Standards and Audit Committee as a near final draft, without a direction of travel statement.
- 3.3 All other matters pertaining to the audit work in 2005/06 will be included within the letter.
- 3.4 When the report is complete and finalised, a copy will be sent to all members of the Council.
- 3.5 The auditor will present his letter to your meeting, and be available to answer any questions members may have.

4 Report Author/Officer to Contact

4.2 Laurie Goldberg, Head of Audit & Governance, Financial Services, Resources Department. Ext 297402.

Mark Noble
Chief Financial Officer
26 March 2007

Key Decision	No
Reason	N/A
Appeared in Forward Plan	N/A
Executive or Council Decision	Executive (Cabinet)