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## Report of the Director of Resources

### Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Subject: Certification of Completion of the Audit – Audit of the Accounts 2008/09

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(Referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 KPMG has formally acknowledged the completion of the audit of the 2008/09 account. On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, the Council advertised this fact in the local press and confirmed that the accounts are available for public inspection.

## 2.0 Purpose of this Report

2.1 Under regulation 18(4) of the Audit and Accounts Regulations 2003, the Authority's responsible financial officer is required to notify this Committee as to the completion of the audit of the accounts.

## 3.0 Background Information

3.1 On the 30<sup>th</sup> September this Committee received an unqualified audit opinion for the 2008/09 accounts. There was however a number of public interest queries still outstanding and as a consequence KPMG were unable to sign off the audit as complete.

## 4.0 Main Issues

4.1 KPMG have now confirmed that the outstanding public interest queries have been dealt with, none of which have lead KPMG to issue a public interest report. They have also confirmed that there have been no matters that have come to their attention since the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 which would have a material impact on the financial statements.

4.2 KPMG have therefore provided written confirmation that the audit of the accounts is

now complete in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission.

- 4.3 In accordance with Regulation 18(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 the Council has advertised the completion of the audit and that the statement of accounts 2008/09 is available for public inspection by local government electors.

## **5.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

- 5.1 In previous years the completion of the audit has coincided with the audit opinion and has therefore been concluded at the Committee meetings which approve the final audited accounts. Recent indications have pointed to a rise in the number of public interest queries faced by Local Authorities. These queries can significantly delay the audit approval process and potentially lead to amendments to the accounts and / or the issuing of public interest reports.

## **6.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

- 6.1 The Council has fully complied with the relevant sections of the Audit and Account regulations.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 KPMG have confirmed the completion of the audit and that there is no requirement to amend the accounts as approved by this Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

- 8.1 Members are asked to note the completion of the audit for 2008/09.

### Background Documents Used

KPMG Notice of Certification of Completion of the Audit 2008/09