



Report of the Director of Resources

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 18th April 2011

Subject: The Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(Referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 Communities and Local Government (CLG) have now published the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. This report aims to update Members on the main changes to the regulations following the consultation exercise reported to Members of this Committee on the 14th February 2011.

2.0 Main Issues

2.1 The main amendments contained within the final regulations are as follows:

2.2 In respect of the approval and publication of the annual accounts, the Responsible Financial Officer is required to certify that the accounts are a true and fair view by the 30th June and Members will be required to approve the audited accounts by the end of September. It is therefore no longer a statutory requirement that members approve the unaudited accounts by the end of June.

2.3 Regulation 22 of the previous regulations has been removed and consequently any contravention of the regulations is no longer a criminal offence.

2.4 As anticipated, the regulations now require a review of the effectiveness of internal audit, rather than a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal audit. Such a review has historically been provided as a fundamental part of the Annual Internal Audit Report presented to this committee. This will remain the case.

2.5 The regulations require the Corporate Governance Statement to accompany the Statement of Accounts. It is at the discretion of the Council as to whether it should be published within the accounts or as a separate document.

3.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

3.1 The Responsible Financial Officer is required, under the regulations, to certify that the unaudited accounts are a true and fair view of the Council's financial position. As agreed by Members of this Committee on the 14th February 2011, this Committee will approve the unaudited accounts in July, before they are available for public

inspection. Whilst not a requirement of the regulations, this is considered as good practice by CLG. Under the regulations, Members will be required to approve the audited accounts before the 30th September.

4.0 Legal And Resource Implications

4.1 The new regulations will come into force on the 31st March 2011 and will therefore apply to the 2010/11 Statement of Accounts and audit.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Members to be asked to note the new Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.