

REPORT TO: Business Efficiency Board
DATE: 25 September 2008
REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Financial Services
SUBJECT: Annual Governance Report 2007/08
WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To consider the report of the Audit Commission on the 2007/08 financial statements (The Annual Governance Report).

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

(1) the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report 2007/08 in Appendix 1 be received;

(2) the Audit Commission's role and responsibilities be noted; and

(3) the Council's Summary Accounts 2007/08 in Appendix 2 be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the meeting on 26th June 2008 Members approved the Council's draft Statement of Accounts (The Abstract) for 2007/08. Since that meeting the Audit Commission have undertaken their audit of the Council's financial statements. The District Auditor will attend the meeting to present the report of their findings, the Annual Governance report, which includes their work in respect of the Council's arrangements for securing value for money in its use of resources, as shown in Appendix 1.

3.2 As agreed at the meeting on 26th June 2008, the District Auditor will also make a presentation to Members regarding the Statement of Responsibilities and the introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment, in order to aid Members' understanding of the Audit Commission's role.

3.3 Following the meeting, the Audit Commission will provide their audit opinion and the Council's Statement of Accounts (The Abstract) will be published, with copies being made available to the public via Halton Direct Link, Libraries and other public locations, as well as via the Council's website.

3.4 A brief Summary of the Council's 2007/08 Statement of Accounts has also been produced, shown in Appendix 2, which is intended to outline

the key aspects of the accounts in a simplified form. The Summary will also be made available to the public alongside the full Statement of Accounts and an extract will be included within the next issue of the Inside Halton magazine and within the Council's forthcoming Annual Report.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no other implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 There are no direct implications, however, the Council's financial resources support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The Council must have internal controls and processes in place to ensure that spending remains in line with budget.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no equality or diversity issues associated with this report.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.