

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT BOARD

16TH MARCH 2009

EXTERNAL AUDIT OPINION PLAN 2008/09

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Financial Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1 To present to members the Audit Commissions 2008/09 Opinion Plan. A copy of this document is attached to this report as Appendix A.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 Members are asked to note and agree the 2008/09 Audit Opinion Plan

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Attached at Appendix A is the 2008/09 Audit Opinion Plan . The Plan sets out work that the Audit Commission propose to undertake in 2008/09 in relation to specific risks.

3.2 The Audit Commission Audit Plan was presented to this Board in June 2008. In addition to the plan the Commission are required to identify specific risks associated with the delivery of the Audit Opinion.

3.3 These risks cannot be identified until during the financial year. The opinion plan specifies the risks that have been identified.

3.4 These risks are as follows:

- Transfer of the payroll system
- Valuations of fixed assets in light of the current climate
- Introduction of the electronic ordering and invoicing system
- Methodology for identifying prepayments
- Policy for related parties arrangements

3.5 The work by the Audit Commission will enable a robus opinion to be made across all the internal control and accounting arrangements that the Council has in place.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The additional Audit fees of £5,240 quoted within the plan will be met from 2008/09 revenue budget provisions.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council is required under Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2006 to “maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper internal audit practices”.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

6.1 Council Objective 02: Improvement.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:

- Ineffective financial management.
- Inaccurate Council data.
- Ineffective Business and Performance Management.

7.2 These risks are being managed as follows:

- Ineffective financial management:

Risk Register: Corporate

Key Objective Ref No: 1

Key Objective: Effective financial management

- Inaccurate Council data:

Risk Register: Corporate

Key Objective Ref No: 15

Key Objective: All Council data is accurate and of high quality

- Ineffective Business and Performance Management:

Risk Register: Corporate

Key Objective Ref No: 19

Key Objective: Effective Business and Performance Management

7.3 Service specific improvements and actions are also monitored as part of each individual service risk register.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 No customer implications.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No equalities and diversity issues.

10. **VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The Council has discussed the plan with the Audit Commission to ensure there will be added value to the Council in undertaking the plan to the level agreed.

11. **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues: None
Personnel Implications: None
Governance/Performance Management: Effective governance process.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998:None
Policy: None
Environmental: None

12. **OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (Services)	No
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

13. **WARDS AFFECTED**

13.1 All Wards are affected.

14. **APPENDICES**

14.1 Appendix – Audit Opinion Plan

15. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

15.1 None.

CONTACT OFFICER

Jayne Pickering – Head of Financial Services
E Mail: j.pickering@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881207
