

Audit Progress Summary to 4 June 2009



South Hams Council

South Hams reports issued by the Audit Commission since last meeting

- 2009/10 Audit Fee Letter (attached)

Work currently in progress

- Interim (control environment and systems) audit 2008/09
- Use of resources 2009
- Benefits audit / Data quality spotchecks
- Liaison with accountants over accounting issues for the 2008/09 accounts

Audit Commission events and national reports

The second issue of Councillor Update was issued on 3 June (emailed to all councillors and available on the AC website). This included pieces on:

- The relaunched Audit Commission website www.audit-commission.gov.uk
- The AC report *Summing Up*, published on 23 April, looking at three years of financial management in local government from 2005 to 2008. A web tool allowing councils to compare their performance with that of others is also being published on the AC website.
- The AC report *Working Better Together?*, published on 21 April, looking at local strategic partnerships. The report is supported by a range of materials for LSPs to use to assess themselves.
- The AC report *Risk and return: English local authorities and the Icelandic banks*, published on 26 March presenting the findings of research into English local authorities' deposits in the Icelandic banks and treasury management in local authorities.

Other news:

- The third AC briefing paper for local government on International Financial Reporting Standards - *Managing the transition to IFRS* - was published on 4 May. The paper considered what LG bodies should be doing now to prepare for IFRS and also highlighted the more significant issues that authorities will have to address, including planning and addressing the resource implications.
- From 1 April, the Audit Commission, the new Care Quality Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorates of Constabulary, Prisons and Probation, and Ofsted are working to gather information and to make joint Comprehensive Area Assessments about public services in every area of England. The joint assessments will be published together on a dedicated website, to be launched by the end of the year, and in other easy-access formats. The most recent CAA briefing paper - *CAA Update (edition 13)* - was published on 24 March. A new guide about CAA for Councillors will be issued later this month, in leaflet format.

All the documents referred to above are available from the Audit Commission website: www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Steve Brown,
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4 June 2009