

9 November 2009

Members
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint
Committee
c/o The Solicitor for Southampton City Council
Legal & Democratic Services
Southampton City Council
Gateway Civic Centre,
SO14 7LY

Dear Members

Partnership for Urban South Hampshire – Annual Audit Letter 2008/09

This letter provides an overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the Joint Committee. It draws on the findings and conclusions from the 2008/09 audit.

We have addressed this letter to Members as it is the responsibility of the Joint Committee to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the conduct of its business and that it safeguards and properly accounts for public money.

This letter also communicates the significant issues to key external stakeholders, including members of the public. We will publish this letter on the Audit Commission website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk. In addition, the Authority may wish to publish it on its own website. I have prepared this letter as required by the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by the Audit Commission. This is also available on the Audit Commission's website.

The letter has been discussed with the Managing Director and Treasurer. A copy will be presented to the Joint Committee on 24 November 2009. Before going into the summary of my findings, I would like to express my thanks for the positive approach to the audit and for the co-operation that we have received from officers of the Committee.

As your appointed auditor, I am responsible for planning and carrying out an audit that meets the requirements of the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice (the Code).

Under the Code, I review and report on:

- the Joint Committee's accounts; and
- whether the Joint Committee has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the value for money conclusion);

The audit of accounts

I have completed the audit of the Joint Committee's accounts for 2008/09. Details of my findings were summarised within the Annual Governance Report presented to the Committee on 15 September 2009. There were no matters arising which I consider significant enough to be repeated here. I issued an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts on 30 September 2009.

Use of resources - value for money conclusion

I have concluded that the Joint Committee has proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources in respect of all the four criteria upon which I am required to reach a conclusion.

K. L. Handy
District Auditor