

14th September 2010

Members
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)
54A High Street,
Fareham,
Hampshire.
PO16 7BG

— Dear Members

Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) – Annual Audit Letter 2009/10

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 2009/10 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 Committee 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 Head of Finance and Treasurer. A copy will be presented to the Joint Committee on 14th September 2010. 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 2009/10. Details of my findings were summarised within the Annual Governance Report presented to the Committee on 14th September 2010. There were no matters arising which I consider significant enough to be repeated here. I will issue an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts before 30th September 2010.

The Committee has considered what impact IFRS adoption will have on its accounts. We agree with your conclusion that the impact on the Committee's statements will be minimal.

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.

Approach to local value for money work from 2010/11

Given the scale of pressures facing public bodies in the current economic climate, the Audit Commission has been reviewing its work programme for 2010/11 onwards. This review has included discussions with key stakeholders of possible options for a new approach to local value for money (VFM) audit work. The Commission aims to introduce a new, more targeted and better value approach to our local VFM audit work. Work will be based on a reduced number reporting criteria, specified by the Commission, concentrating on:

- securing financial resilience; and
- prioritising resources within tighter budgets.

For smaller bodies auditors will continue to apply the current lighter touch approach to their VFM conclusion work.

K. L. Handy
District Auditor

Audit Commission
Collins House
Bishopstoke Road
Eastleigh
Hants
SO50 6AD