

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee **Audit and Standards Committee**

Date of Committee **25 September 2006**

Report Title **Review of Financial Standing Orders**

Summary This report summarises the outcome of a review of the Council's Financial Standing Orders and proposes amendments which are to be recommend to full Council for approval

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? No.

Background papers Council's Financial Standing Orders

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Sent to Cllr Alan Cockburn
- Chief Executive
- Legal Tony Maione
- Finance Dave Clarke – reporting officer
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority

Police

Other Bodies/Individuals Sent to Mr J Bridgeman, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee

FINAL DECISION

NO

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

Further consideration by this Committee

To Council 31 October 2006

To Cabinet 12 October 2006

To an O & S Committee

To an Area Committee

Further Consultation

Agenda No

Audit and Standards Committee – 25 September 2006

Review of Financial Standing Orders

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources

Recommendation

That the Audit and Standards Committee recommends that the amendments proposed to Financial Standing Orders are reported to Cabinet and then to Council for approval.

Background

1. All Local Authorities are required by law to conduct their business efficiently and to ensure they have sound financial management policies in place, which are strictly adhered to. Part of this process requires Local Authorities to establish Financial Standing Orders, which set out the financial policies of the Council. Financial Standing Orders apply to every Member and Officer of the Council and anyone acting on its behalf.
2. To achieve a good CAP score for use of resources, the need to review Financial Standing Orders should have been considered within the last twelve months. The Director of Resources undertakes major review of Financial Standing Orders every other year and a desktop review in alternate years.
3. The last major review of Financial Standing Orders took place last year in 2005, therefore a lighter touch has been adopted for this current review.

Outcome of the Review

4. The main changes to the Financial Standing Orders are:
 - Restructuring of the County Council from nine departments to six directorates.
 - The appointment of six Strategic Directors.
 - The transfer of the Internal Audit and Risk Management Section from the previous County Treasurer's Department to the Performance and Development Directorate.

- The transfer of the Procurement Section from the previous Chief Executive's Department to the Resources Directorate.
 - Increase the income and asset write off limits, which Strategic Directors can approve, from £500 to £1,000.
5. A full copy of the revised Financial Standing Orders can be provided on request.

Conclusion

6. Support is therefore requested for the proposed amendments to Financial Standing Orders as set out in this report and for these amendments to be recommended to Cabinet and to full Council for approval.

Dave Clarke
Strategic Director of Resources

5 September 2006