
REPORT TO:	FINANCE and MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - SPECIAL	AGENDA ITEM: 7
DATE OF MEETING:	29th SEPTEMBER 2011	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	KEVIN STACKHOUSE (01283 595811) CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER Kevin.stackhouse@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC: u/ks/VFM/covering report final accounts committee
SUBJECT:	A REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECURING VALUE FOR MONEY	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM 08

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That the report and associated action plan is considered and approved. .

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To consider the annual assessment on the Council's arrangements for securing value for money. This was presented by Grant Thornton, as the Council's appointed auditors, to the Audit Sub Committee on 28th September 2011 under its terms of reference.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Following the abolition of the Use of Resources Assessment in 2010, the Audit Commission introduced a new approach to assessing value for money (VFM) at a local level. As part of Grant Thornton's work in giving an opinion on the Council's accounts and financial statements, they are required to issue a broad conclusion on whether the Council provides VFM.

3.2 This report provides a more detailed assessment; it determines whether the Council has proper arrangements in place for securing both financial resilience together with economy, efficiency and effectiveness. This is undertaken against a set of criteria considered to be good practice in the following areas:

- Key Indicators of Performance
- Strategic Financial Planning
- Financial Governance
- Financial Control
- Prioritising Resources
- Improving Efficiencies

3.3 Grant Thornton's detailed report is appended.

3.4 In all but one area, the report assesses the Council as having adequate arrangements and key characteristics of good practice in place. Financial Control is assessed as having potential risks, although there is evidence that the Council is taking forward areas to strengthen arrangements to overcome these risks. This is contained in an action plan.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None directly.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 None directly.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 None directly.

7.0 Background Papers

None