

10. Future of Local Public Audit - Consultation

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Purpose of the Report

This report requests that members of the Audit Committee approve the response to the consultation paper from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) regarding the future of public audit.

Recommendations

The Audit Committee is asked to approve the attached response (pages 39-45) to the consultation paper.

Introduction

The DCLG announced some time ago that the Audit Commission would in effect be disbanded and removed by April 2012. The inspection regime around Comprehensive Area Assessment and Use of Resources has already been removed but the Commission still provides an assurance framework around the Statement of Accounts, an opinion on Value for Money, a view around the financial resilience of an organisation, grant certification, the Whole of Government Accounts, and the National Fraud Initiative. Last month the DCLG launched its 65-page consultation report with 50 questions regarding the future arrangements for external audit but these include some major changes for local authority Audit Committees.

The Consultation Paper

The consultation paper was initially considered by this committee in April 2011 and the draft response is attached at pages 39-45 taking into account the comments made by the Audit Committee at that meeting.

The deadline for responses is the 30th June 2011.

A copy of the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 2 at the back of this agenda.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in responding to this consultation paper.

Background Papers: *Department for Communities & Local Government Consultation Document – Future of Local Public Audit*
