AUDIT COMMITTEE

Audit Commission IT Reports
19th September 2007

Report of Head of Information & Customer Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide information on two recent Audit Commission Reports in respect of "IT Risk Assessment" and "Your Business @ Risk" and the actions that have either been taken or agreed.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1)   That the Audit Commission reports and resultant action plans be noted.

1.0   Introduction

1.1   The Audit Commission undertook two recent reviews – the IT Risk Assessment review which looks at the IT control environment and the Your Business at Risk assessment which used a Council-wide online survey to assess awareness of risks associated with new technologies and highlights any problematic areas.

2.0   Report Details

2.1   Each report covers the current situation and makes a small number of recommendations which will further strengthen the Council's position in these two crucial areas. The recommendations and resultant agreed actions are in appendices to the report. Most of the recommendations are around reminding officers of the issues and their responsibilities and this will be done via a comprehensive item on the First Brief system. Briefing. Most other recommendations are minor and can be dealt with within existing budgets other than the recommendation to review the IT training budget. This issue will be pursued through the Star Chamber process if it identifies the need for additional resources.

3.0   Details of Consultation

3.1   Not applicable

4.0   Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

4.1   Option1

To note the reports and resultant action plans as recommended.

4.2   Option 2

To note the reports and agree amendments to the action plans.

The officer preferred option is option 1

5.0   Conclusion

5.1   The Audit Commission concluded that overall the IT control environment was reliable and awareness of IT risks was around the national average. Completing the recommended actions will further secure these areas.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT **(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**   None arising from this report
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS   There are no financial implications arising at the moment as a result of this report. The I.T. training budget and building security is to be reviewed and any requests for growth will be reported as part of the 2008/09 budget process.
SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS   The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS   None arising from this report
MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS   The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS None	**Contact Officer:** Jane Allder **Telephone: 01524 58**2097 **E-mail:** jallder@lancaster.gov.uk **Ref:** IS10