

By: Cabinet Member for Finance – John Simmonds
Acting Director of Finance – Andy Wood

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 16 March 2011

Subject: Revised Accounting Policies

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report asks Members to approve the revised accounting policies.

FOR DECISION

1. For the accounting year 2010/11 our accounts need to be prepared on an International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) basis.
2. The CIPFA Code of Practice requires authorities to follow International Accounting Standard 8 (IAS 8) - *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*. Accounting policies are defined as "... the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an entity in preparing and presenting financial statements".
3. As a result of moving to IFRS, the majority of our accounting policies have had to be rewritten. In the majority of circumstances this is not a fundamental change. However, they are more detailed than in previous years and aim to give the reader a greater understanding into the principles and practices that have been adopted to produce the figures in the financial statements.
4. **Recommendation**
As these accounting policies are generally standard for all authorities and are derived from the Code of Practice Guidance Notes prepared by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants, officers recommend that Members approve the suitability of the accounting policies as presented.

Andy Wood
Acting Director of Finance
Ext: 4622

Cath Head
Chief Accountant
Ext: 1135