

### Torbay Council

#### Reports issued by the Audit Commission since last meeting

- Annual Governance Report 2010/11 (to follow) containing:
  - Proposed opinion on the financial statements
  - Details of significant errors identified
  - Significant recommendations re internal control and quality of the financial statements
  - Proposed value for money conclusion
  - Request for letter of representation

#### Work in progress

- Audit of government grant claims

#### Audit Commission events and national reports

- September 2011 – The AC launched consultation on its work programme and fee proposals for the 2012/13 audit year. A reduction of 10 per cent from the published 2011/12 scale fees is proposed for principal bodies and the consultation will close on 24 October. The AC will publish the final work programme and scales of fees in April 2012, following completion of the exercise to outsource all AC audit work.
- September 2011 - The AC launched a web-based tool to help public bodies answer the question *How good are we at tackling domestic abuse?* The tool helps local commissioners and practitioners evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their local services and partnerships. It uses self-assessment techniques to focus on priority issues, such as shaping services around needs, constructive working between agencies, making best use of limited funding and effective prevention.
- August 2011 – Following the confirmation by DCLG of the outsourcing of local audit work undertaken by AC in-house staff from 2012/13, a timetable has now been established for the procurement process. The AC has written individually to all affected audited bodies setting out the timetable, as follows:
  - 5 September 2011 - Issue of contract notices
  - 24 October 2011 - Invitations to tender will be issued, with a deadline for submissions of 16 December 2011
  - 20 February 2012 – Approval of contracts to be awarded
  - 23 April–13 July 2012 - Consultation with audited bodies on proposed appointments
  - 23 July 2012 - Auditor appointments confirmed
  - 1 September 2012 - New contracts start.

The privatised in-house audit practice is expected to bid for some of this work alongside other suppliers. The contracts will run for 3 to 5 years.

- August 2011 – The AC reported the results of its Quality Review Programme for its audit suppliers. Based upon the work of the independent Audit and Inspection Unit, the results of suppliers' internal quality monitoring programmes and compliance with regulatory requirements, the report concluded that all suppliers were meeting the performance and professional auditing standards required.

- July 2011 – The AC published its detailed response to the DCLG *Future of Local Public Audit* consultation. The document expanded upon the concerns expressed by the Chairman of the AC when the proposals were published in March.
- July 2011 – The AC announced that it will be making 8% rebates on agreed 2011/12 audit fees.
- July 2011 – The AC's annual report and accounts were laid before Parliament and are available on the AC website.
- June 2011 - The AC report on 2009/10 Grant Certification Work includes information on the number and value of claims certified. It comments that some authorities could improve performance in key areas including preparation of claims, attention to scheme terms and conditions, and the quality of working papers. Following the announcement of plans to disband the Commission, the DCLG consultation on the future of local public audit says that certification work will continue in some form and that the detail will be covered in a forthcoming draft bill and accompanying consultation.

The documents referred to above are available from either the Audit Commission or the DCLG websites.

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[www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk)