



Report 07.275
Date 1 May 2007
File E/07/04/19

Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
Author David Benham Chief Executive

Annual Reports and Summaries in an Election Year

1. Purpose

To present to Council a communication received from the Auditor-General.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

The Auditor-General has written to us reminding us of the importance to take care in preparing and publishing our annual reports and summaries in 2007 to ensure that these documents do not give an electoral advantage to existing members during the pre-election period (the three month period before elections).

The letter is attached for your information (*Attachment1*).

The Auditor-General has requested, in the interests of awareness about this issue, that I table this letter at a Council meeting and remind all those involved in preparing published material over the coming months about the importance of considering the principles and advice set out in his 2004 report on these issues.

4. Comment

All staff involved in the preparation of the annual report and summary document will be advised of this communication from the Auditor-General.

5. Communication

No further communication is necessary

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

David Benham
Chief Executive

Attachment 1: Letter from the Controller and Auditor-General, dated 26 April 2007