

**VALUE FOR MONEY CONCLUSION 2009/10
(Report by the Head of Law, Property & Governance)**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Panel of our external Auditors (Grant Thornton) Value for Money (VFM) conclusion

2. Background

2.1 Under the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice our external auditors are required to reach a conclusion on whether Huntingdonshire District Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources ('VFM conclusion').

3. Key findings and action required by the Council

3.1 The VFM conclusion is informed by the use of resources work which, in Councils, is based on the Audit Commission Use of Resources (UoR) assessment. The attached report sets out Grant Thornton's findings from these pieces of work to arrive at the unqualified conclusion

3.2 The wider requirements of the Use of Resources (UoR) assessment have recently been abolished and will not be formally scored for this year. However, set out in the attached report are discussions of each theme and areas for improvement based on the work Grant Thornton had completed at the time the arrangements ceased.

3.3 Paul Winrow or Liz Sanford from Grant Thornton will present the report to the Corporate Governance Panel

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Panel is recommended to note the content of the report; and

4.2 Agree the action plan in Annex A