

Item No: 7
Date: 13 th March 2012

**WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
JOINT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
JOINT STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Audit of West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit: 2011

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE JOINT PLANNING UNIT

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform the Joint Strategic Planning Committee regarding the work undertaken in both the Joint Planning Unit (JPU) and at South Northamptonshire Council, to ensure that robust governance and financial controls and processes are in place, relating to the work and operation of the JPU.

2. Context

- 2.1 The Auditors of the JPU found that all necessary governance and budgetary safeguards are in place regarding all areas of JPU operation. They found a sound system of budgetary control that is both fit for purpose and being consistently applied. Therefore, the Audit concludes that, given the current level of maturity of the financial arrangements in place, in the opinion of the Auditors “**Full Assurance**” can be provided.
- 2.2 In the light of this, the Committee is asked to note this outcome of the 2011 Audit of the JPU. They are specifically asked to note that sound systems of control are in place to enable the sound management of the governance and finances of the Unit.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Committee note that there are sound systems of control in place to enable the sound management of the JPU.

David Atkinson
Head of the West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit
Telephone: 01604 838412