

Agenda Item: 5(b)

Summary: Panel C Recommendations on the Finance and Estates Working Group Third Implementation Paper

Action Required: To note and agree Policy Development Panel C's recommendations on further implementation issues.

1 Background

1.1 Panel C has endorsed further recommendations from its Finance and Estates Working Group, these are detailed below.

2 Recommendations

Council accounts for 2010/2011

2.1 There is a challenging timetable for councils to prepare and finalise a set of accounts by 30 June each year. It is not therefore considered feasible that the existing 26 councils could have accounts for 2010/2011 signed off before reorganisation takes place in May 2011. Accounts for financial year ending 31 March 2011 will therefore require to be signed off after the existing 26 councils have been dissolved.

2.2 In a similar situation, legislation in GB provided for a new council to finalise the accounts of its predecessor council and the proposal is for a similar arrangement to be put in place for the 2011 reorganisation. This proposal is supported by local government finance officers and the Local Government Audit Office.

2.3 **Recommendation:** It is recommended a Chief Financial Officer of a 'new' council will finalise the statement of accounts for its predecessor council. The Strategic Leadership Board is asked to ensure that DoE put the required legislation in place.

Council accounts for 2011/2012

- 2.4 It is suggested by the Finance and Estates Working Group that when guidance on striking rates and preparation of accounts for the first year of new councils is being developed consideration should be given to councils affected by boundary changes.
- 2.5 **Recommendation:** An implementation recommendation, previously handed over to RTCG, suggested the need for guidance on striking rates and preparation of accounts for a new council's first year. It is recommended that those preparing this guidance should give specific consideration to the needs of councils affected by boundary changes

Policy Development Panel C

August 2009