

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

7 April 2015

EXTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT PLANNING 2014/15

Report of the Director of Resources

STRATEGIC AIM:	All
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the External Audit plan for 2014/15.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee notes the plan at Appendix A.

3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To ensure that the Committee is aware of and understands the approach to the external audit for 2014/15.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Each year the External Audit produces and agrees with the Council an Audit Plan setting out its approach to the audit of:

- The Council's Statement of Accounts
- Whole of Government Accounts return
- Value for Money

4.2 The plan for the 2014/15 audit is attached at Appendix A to this report. The plan has been updated following planning work by the external auditors. There are no major risk issues identified by the auditors in their work to date which suggests that additional work will be needed. Members should note that the fee has increased slightly to £87,308 (£86,238 2013/14) because of increases in the Audit Commission's scale fee to reflect work required in relation to local Business Rates following the removal of the certification requirement for the NNDR3 return. For 2015/16 the fee reduces to £70,941. This reduction has been achieved by the Audit Commission re-tendering some of the older audit framework contracts.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	Low	Timescales for the audit work have been agreed with the Audit Manager
Viability	Low	There are no direct implications within this report
Finance	Low	The 2014/15 forecast includes the cost of the external

		audit fee.
Profile	Medium	External assessment of the Council's performance attracts interest locally and nationally.
Equality and Diversity	Low	Equality Impact Assessment completed, there are no particular issues from this report.

Background Papers

None

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A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.