

<b>Report of</b>	Nick Gray, Strategic Director and Section 151 Officer
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<b>To</b>	Audit Committee
<b>Date</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2013
<b>Subject</b>	<b>2012/13 Annual Audit Letter</b>

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to:**

1. Consider the contents of the 2012/13 Annual Audit Letter in Appendix A, for publication on the Council's website

**2. Summary**

The Annual Audit letter 2012/13 was submitted to members by Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditors, in October 2013. The contents of the letter have been agreed with Grant Thornton by the Council's Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer.

The Annual Audit letter provides a summary of the External Auditor's findings based on the Authority's Annual Governance Report (AGR) presented to the Audit Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

The audit conclusions provided in relation to 2012/13 were as follows:

- an unqualified opinion on the accounts which give a true and fair view of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2013 and of income and expenditure for the year;
- an unqualified conclusion in respect of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources; and
- an unqualified opinion on the Whole of Government Accounts submission

A summary of their findings is attached in the Annual Audit Letter at Appendix A.

Following consideration by this Committee, the Annual Audit Letter will be published in line with the statutory deadline under Audit Regulation 27. A version of the letter will also be posted on the Council's website.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 In accordance with the Audit Regulations 2011 (Regulation 27), there is a requirement that the Annual Audit Letter is published as soon as reasonably possible after receipt. The members of the relevant body must meet to consider it and following the consideration must:

- (a) Publish the annual audit letter received from the auditor; and
- (b) Make copies available for purchase by any person on payment of such sum as the

relevant body may reasonably require.

#### **4. Corporate Implications**

##### 11.1 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications contained within this report.

##### 11.2 Financial and Risk Implications

Financial implications are contained within the Annual Audit Letter at Appendix A and the Annual Governance Report (AGR) submitted to the previous Audit Committee in September.

##### 11.3 Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications as a direct consequence of this report.

##### 11.4 Employment Issues

There are no employment implications in this report.

##### 11.5 Sustainability Issues

There are no sustainability implications in this report.

##### 11.6 Consultation

There are no consultation issues in this report.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Statutory Accounts and Annual Governance Report 2012/13 presented to Audit Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013
- Statement of Accounts presented to Audit Committee 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013
- CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in United Kingdom 2012/13 (The Code)
- Service Expenditure Reporting Code of Practice in the United Kingdom 2012/13 (SERCOP)
- Revenue Outturn Report 2012/13

#### **APPENDICES:**

- Appendix A – Annual Audit Letter 2012/13 for publication