

13. EXTERNAL AUDIT (KPMG): 2017/18 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER (A1362/ DH)

Purpose of the report

1. This report asks Members to consider the External Auditor's 2017/18 Annual Audit Letter.

Key issues

2. Key issues include:
- The Annual Audit Letter provides a summary of the results of the external audit for 2017/18

Recommendations

3. **1. That the 2017/18 Annual Audit Letter be considered and acknowledged**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

4. The work of the external auditors is a key part of our governance arrangements and helps us to monitor and improve performance to ensure the Authority has a solid foundation supporting achievement of our four cornerstones and four directional shifts as detailed in our Corporate Strategy. Achieving an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and satisfying the Auditor that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are corporate performance indicators.

Background

5. The duties and powers of auditors are set out in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Local Government Act 1999, the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies and the Code of Audit Practice. Considering the Auditor's annual letter is part of the Audit Resources and Performance Committee's work programme.

Proposals

6. The full Letter for consideration is given at Appendix 1.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

7. **Financial:** The fees of £13,259 for external audit are funded from the existing Finance Service budget.
8. **Risk Management:**
The scrutiny and advice provided by external audit is part of our governance framework. The Auditor's work is based on an assessment of audit risk.
9. **Sustainability:**
There are no issues to highlight
10. **Background papers** (not previously published) – None

Appendices-

Appendix 1: External Audit: 2017/18 Annual Audit Letter

Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date

David Hickman, Director of Corporate Strategy and Development, 30 August 2018