

# ***Report to the Audit and Governance Committee***



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

***Report Reference: AGC-004-2011/12.***

***Date of meeting: 23 June 2011.***

**Portfolio: Finance and Economic Development.**

**Subject: Reports from the External Auditor – Audit Fee Letter.**

**Responsible Officer: Bob Palmer (01992 564279).**

**Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).**

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## **Recommendations:**

**(1) To consider and note the report of the external auditor.**

## **Executive Summary:**

This Committee has within its Terms of Reference the considering of reports made by the external auditor.

The attached report is the Annual Audit Fee Letter for 2011/12, which provides an indicative fee for the 2011/12 audit. The letter also summarises what the external auditor currently views as the significant audit risks.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decisions:**

To inform the Committee of the likely audit fee for 2011/12 and provide an update on significant audit risks.

## **Other Options for Action:**

There are no other options for action.

## **Report:**

1. The report will be presented to the Committee by Mr Richard Bint, Partner, and Ms Lisa Clampin, Director of Assurance & Advisory.

## **Resource Implications:**

The fees for the 2011/12 audit year have been allowed for in the Council's budgets.

## **Legal and Governance Implications:**

There are no legal implications or Human Rights Act issues arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:**

There are no implications arising from the recommendations in this report for the Council's commitment to the Nottingham Declaration for climate change, the corporate Safer, Cleaner and Greener initiative or any Crime and Disorder issues within the district.

**Consultation Undertaken:**

None.

**Background Papers:**

None.

**Impact Assessments:**

Risk Management

Three risks have been identified by the external auditor:

- (i) Economic climate/financial pressures – a Medium Term Financial Strategy is in place and regular updates are provided to the Finance & Performance Management Cabinet Committee.
- (ii) Benefits Service – following the critical inspection, action plans have been put in place and progress is monitored by the Finance & Performance Management Scrutiny Panel and the Department for Work & Pensions.
- (iii) Potential developments at Langston Road and North Weald – these developments are being managed through the North Weald Airfield and Asset Management Cabinet Committee.

Equality and Diversity:

*Did the initial assessment of the proposals contained in this report for relevance to the Council's general equality duties, reveal any potentially adverse equality implications?* No

*Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?* N/A

*What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?*  
N/A

*How have the equality implications identified through the Equality Impact Assessment been addressed in this report in order to avoid discrimination against any particular group?*  
N/A