

Report to the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee



Report reference: *FPM-009-2011/12*
Date of meeting: *26 September 2011*

**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Finance and Economic Development

Subject: Annual Governance Report

Responsible Officer: Bob Palmer (01992 564279).

Democratic Services Officer: Rebecca Perrin (01992 564532).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To note the External Auditor's Annual Governance Report.

Executive Summary:

The External Auditors will present their Annual Governance Report to the Audit and Governance Committee on 22 September 2010. The report has been placed on this agenda to ensure that members of this Committee are aware of the key issues raised.

The Annual Governance Report was still being completed when this agenda was published and so the report will follow as part of a supplementary agenda.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To ensure that Members are informed of any significant issues arising from the audit of the Statutory Statement of Accounts.

Other Options for Action:

The report is for noting, no specific actions are proposed.

Report:

1. International Standard on Auditing 260 requires the External Auditor to report to those charged with governance certain matters before they give an opinion on the Statutory Statement of Accounts. The External Auditor has indicated that their audit of the Council's Statutory Statement of Accounts for 2010/11 is nearly complete and that they wish to present their report to the Audit and Governance Committee on 22 September.

2. As the Annual Governance Report may contain issues that this Committee should be aware of, the report has been placed on this agenda.

Resource Implications:

None.

Legal and Governance Implications:

Any legal and governance implications will be set out by the external auditors in their report.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None.

Consultation Undertaken:

None.

Background Papers:

Statutory Statement of Accounts and associated reports made to the Audit and Governance Committee and Full Council.

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

If the Committee did not receive the Annual Governance Report they may be unaware of a significant issue raised by the External Auditor.

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?

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