

Report to the Audit and Governance Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report Reference: AGC-021-2013/14

Date of meeting: 28 November 2013

Portfolio: Finance and Technology

Subject: Reports from the External Auditor

Responsible Officer: Bob Palmer (01992 564279)

Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

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

Executive Summary:

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

The first report is the Annual Audit Letter for 2012/13, which summarises the key issues arising from BDO's work during the year. The detailed findings from the audit work have already been reported to this Committee and there are no additional recommendations in this report. The Annual Audit Letter was circulated to Members of the Committee on 28 October 2013, to comply with Audit Commission requirements.

The second report is the Fee Outturn Summary for 2012/13, which updates the costs of the audit. The total audit fee was £117,579 (2011/12 £157,215), compared to an estimate of £117,179 (2011/12 £142,215), although the claims and returns fee is still to be confirmed.

Reasons for Proposed Decisions:

To comply with the Committee's Terms of Reference and ensure the proper consideration of these reports.

Other Options for Action:

There are no other options for action.

Report:

1. The reports will be presented to the Committee by Mr David Eagles, Partner, and Ms Clare Reed, Manager.

Resource Implications:

Sufficient allowance was made in the original estimates for 2013/14 to cover the fees for the 2012/13 audit year and so no additional resources are required.

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

Action plans have been agreed to address areas of risk identified during the audit.

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