

Report to the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report Reference: FPM-014-2015/16
Date of meeting: 17 September 2015

Portfolio: Finance

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 21 September 2015. 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 Decisions:

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 2014/15 is nearly complete and that they wish to present their report to the Audit and Governance Committee on 21 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.

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.

Due Regard Record

This page shows **which groups of people are affected** by the subject of this report. It sets out **how they are affected** and how any **unlawful discrimination** they experience can be eliminated. It also includes information about how **access to the service(s)** subject to this report can be improved for the different groups of people; and how they can be assisted to **understand each other better** as a result of the subject of this report.

S149 Equality Act 2010 requires that due regard must be paid to this information when considering the subject of this report.

Date / Name	Summary of equality analysis
2/09/15 Director of Resources	The report is to highlight any concerns arising from the external audit. It does not propose any change to the use of resources and so has no equalities implications.