

AUDIT COMMITTEE

25 June 2013

ANNUAL AUDIT FEES 2013/14 (REVISED)

REPORT OF HEAD OF FINANCE

Contact Officer: Liz Keys Tel No: 01962 848226 Email: LKeys@winchester.gov.uk

RECENT REFERENCES:

AUD051: Annual Audit Fees 2012/13 and 2013/14, 12 March 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Audit Committee approved the indicative Audit Fees for 2013/14 in March (AUD051 refers). Ernst & Young have now written to advise of a revision to the indicative fees for 2013/14 in respect of the certification of claims and returns. The indicative fee has been amended from £14,400 to £17,200. Actual fees will be based on the actual time spent on grant certification work. The Audit Fee is unchanged at the fixed price of £74,214.

Representatives of Ernst & Young will be in attendance at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Audit Committee approves the revised indicative annual audit fee for 2013/14.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND CHANGE PLANS
(RELEVANCE TO):

1.1. Preparation of the Statement of Accounts is fundamental to the operation of the Council. Achieving corporate priorities must go in hand with accounting for how the public's money has been spent.

2. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

2.1 This slight increase to the forecast costs will require an increase in budget which will be covered from the savings achieved from the reductions to the main audit fees.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDIX

Appendix A – Annual Audit Fee 2013/14 (revised) letter

Simon Eden
Chief Executive
Winchester City Council
City Offices
Colebrook Street
Winchester
Hants
SO23 9LJ

18 April 2013

Ref: WCC/Fee Letter/KH

Direct line: 02380382043

Email: KHandy@uk.ey.com

Dear Simon

Annual Audit Fee 2013/14

We are writing to confirm the audit work that we propose to undertake for the 2013/14 financial year at Winchester City Council. The fee reflects the risk-based approach to audit planning set out in the Code of Audit Practice and the work mandated by the Audit Commission for 2013/14. The audit fee covers the:

- ▶ Audit of the financial statements;
- ▶ Value for money conclusion; and
- ▶ Whole of Government accounts.

Our fee has been set by the Audit Commission as part of the recent 5 year procurement exercise and consequently is not liable to increase in that period without a change in scope.

Indicative audit fee

For 2013/14 the Audit Commission has set the scale fee for each audited body. The 2013/14 scale fee is based on certain assumptions, including:

- ▶ The overall level of risk in relation to the audit of the financial statements is not significantly different from that of the prior year;
- ▶ We are able to place reliance on the work of internal audit to the maximum extent possible under auditing standards;
- ▶ The financial statements will be available to us in line with the agreed timetable;
- ▶ Working papers and records provided to us in support of the financial statements are of a good quality and are provided in line with our agreed timetable; and
- ▶ Prompt responses are provided to our draft reports.

Meeting these assumptions will help ensure the delivery of our audit at the indicative audit fee.

The indicative audit fee set out in the table below has initially been set at the scale fee level as the overall level of risk in relation to the audit of the financial statements is not significantly different from that of the prior year.

	Indicative fee 2013/14 £	Planned fee 2012/13 £	Actual fee 2011/12 £
Total Code audit fee	74,214	74,214	123,690
Certification of claims and returns*	17,200	14,400	34,802

*The indicative fee for 2013/14 and the planned fee for 2012/13 relate to the certification of grant claims and returns for the years ended 31 March 2014 and 31 March 2013 respectively. The certification fees for 2011/12 are the actual fees for the year ended 31 March 2012.

Any additional work that we may agree to undertake (outside of the Audit Code of Practice) will be separately negotiated and agreed with you in advance.

Our audit plan for the audit of the financial statements will be issued in March 2014. This will detail the significant financial statement risks identified, planned audit procedures to respond to those risks, and any changes in fee. It will also set out the risks identified in relation to the Value for Money conclusion. Should we need to make any significant amendments to the audit fee during the course of the audit, we will discuss this in the first instance with the Head of Finance and, if necessary, prepare a report outlining the reasons for the fee change for discussion with the Audit Committee.

Billing

The indicative audit fee will be billed in 4 instalments of £22,853.50

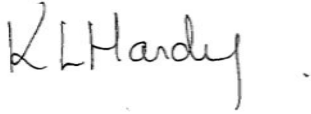
Audit team

The key members of the audit team for 2013/14 are:

Kate Handy Director	KHandy@uk.ey.com	Tel: 02380382043
Mike Bowers Manager	MBowers@uk.ey.com	Tel: 07881518961
Sara Rowntree Executive	SRowntree@uk.ey.com	Tel: 07779573133

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If at any time you would like to discuss with us how our service to you could be improved, or if you are dissatisfied with the service you are receiving, please contact me. If you prefer an alternative route, please contact Steve Varley, our Managing Partner, 1 More London Place, London, SE1 2AF. We undertake to look into any complaint carefully and promptly and to do all we can to explain the position to you. Should you remain dissatisfied with any aspect of our service, you may of course take matters up with our professional institute.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K L Hardy'.

Kate Handy
Director
Ernst & Young LLP
United Kingdom

cc. Stephen Whetnall, Corporate Director (Governance)
Alexis Garlick, Head of Finance
Cllr Banister, Chair of the Audit Committee