

AUDIT COMMITTEE

4 December 2012

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2011/12

REPORT OF HEAD OF FINANCE

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RECENT REFERENCES:

AUD042: Annual Governance Report 2011/12 and Letter of Management Representation, 25 September 2012

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Audit Commission have now presented the Annual Audit Letter for 2011/12, which is appended.

The presentation of this letter marks the conclusion of the external audit work in relation to the 2011/12 financial year. The letter has been discussed with officers. As required by Regulations, the Annual Audit Letter has been made available to all members before 30 November 2012.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit Committee confirm their acceptance of the Annual Audit Letter.

29 September 2012

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Dear Member

Winchester City Council Annual Audit Letter 2011/12

I am pleased to submit my Annual Audit Letter which summarises my 2011/12 audit of Winchester City Council.

Financial statements

On 25 September 2012 I presented my Annual Governance Report (AGR) to the Audit Committee outlining the findings of my audit of the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements. I will not replicate those findings in this letter.

Following the Audit Committee, I:

- issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts;
- concluded that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources; and
- certified completion of the audit.

Duties under the Audit Commission Act 1998

I received and considered one objection to the 2011/12 accounts from a local government elector. This was in respect of planning obligations agreed as part of a retail development in Bishops Waltham. The objection was not upheld.

I have not taken any further action using my powers under the Audit Commission Act 1998 in respect of my audit of your 2011/12 financial statements.

Closing remarks

I have discussed and agreed this letter with the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director (Governance) and the Head of Finance. While this has been another challenging year for the Council I wish to thank the finance staff for the positive and constructive approach they have taken to my audit. I also wish to thank senior management and the Audit Committee for their support and co-operation during the audit.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Taylor
District Auditor