

REPORT TITLE: ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2015/16

AUDIT COMMITTEE

24 NOVEMBER 2016

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr STEPHEN GODFREY

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE

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

WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Annual Audit Letter (AAL) is to communicate the key issues arising from the External Auditors' work to all Members and external stakeholders, including members of the public.

The Council's external auditors, Ernst and Young LLP have now presented the AAL for 2015/16, which is appended. This marks the conclusion of the external audit work in relation to the 2015/16 financial year. The letter has been discussed with officers and, following consideration by Audit Committee, will be published on the Council's website.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Audit Committee:
 - i. takes the opportunity to discuss the contents of the Annual Audit Letter 2015/16 with the External Auditors; and
 - ii. confirms its acceptance of the Annual Audit Letter 2015/16.

IMPLICATIONS:

1 COMMUNITY STRATEGY OUTCOME

- 1.1 External Audit findings contribute to the corporate governance arrangements of Winchester City Council, which in turn supports the achievement of the objectives of the Community Strategy.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The final fee for the 2015/16 audit work was £56,336 (this is the same as the planned fee reported to Committee in June 2015 (AUD122)).
- 2.2 The auditors will issue their Annual Certification Report in March 2017. This summarises their work on the certification of grants and returns relating to 2015/16. The fee for this certification work is planned to be £10,535 but has not yet been finalised.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6 CONSULTATION AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 None

7 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 None

8 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 8.1 None

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 9.1 None.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

AUD166 - Audit Results Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2016, 29 September 2016

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 - Annual Audit Letter 2015/16