

REPORT TITLE: ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2016/17

7 DECEMBER 2017

REPORT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDER: CLLR ASHTON – PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE

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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 2016/17, which is appended.

This marks the conclusion of the external audit work in relation to the 2016/17 financial year.

The letter has been discussed with officers and is published on the Council's website.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Committee:
 - i. Takes the opportunity to discuss the contents of the Annual Audit Letter 2016/17 and raise any issues with the External Auditors; and
 - ii. Confirms its acceptance of the Annual Audit Letter 2016/17

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL 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 Council Strategy.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The final fee for the 2016/17 audit work was £61,436 which includes £5,100 additional fee for work undertaken to support the 2016/17 Value for Money conclusion.
- 2.2 The auditors will issue their Annual Certification Report in March 2018. This summarises their work on the certification of grants and returns relating to 2016/17. The fee for this certification work is planned to be £6,630 but has not yet been finalised.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT

- 3.1 None.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 None

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 None

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSEMENT

- 8.1 None

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<i>Property</i>		

<i>Community Support</i>		
<i>Timescales</i>		
<i>Project capacity</i>		
<i>Financial / VfM</i>		
<i>Legal</i>		
<i>Innovation</i>		
<i>Reputation</i>		
<i>Other</i>		

10 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

10.1 None

11 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

11.1 None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

Other Background Documents:-

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Annual Audit Letter 2016/17