

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

12 April 2011

Report of the Director of Finance

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 AUDIT COMMISSION – WORK PROGRAMME AND SCALES OF FEES 2011/12

This report informs members of the Audit Commission's Work Programme and Scales of Fees for 2011/12.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 The Audit Commission has approved the Work Programme and Scales of Fees for the local government, housing and community safety sectors for 2011/12 following a consultation process which ended on 7 January (report to the meeting of this Committee on 24 January refers).
- 1.1.2 The document sets out the Commission's responsibilities, and the work programme is designed to discharge those responsibilities. The document outlines at a high level the work that the Audit Commission plans to undertake in the local government, housing and community safety sectors during 2011/12, together with the proposed fee scales for that year.
- 1.1.3 The proposed work programme and scales of fees suggested reductions in district councils audit fees of 5% reflecting both the new approach to local VFM audit work and a reduction in the ongoing audit costs associated with the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards. The proposed scale of fees for each audited body was made available on the Commission's website and ours was £100,225 compared to a budget provision of £105,000.
- 1.1.4 The Commission having listened to what respondents to the consultation have said are also proposing, subject to affordability, to make additional rebates of up to 10% in 2011/12 and will notify audited bodies of the amount due to them in the summer. In addition, subject to the timing of the Commission's proposed abolition, it is committed to delivering further significant fee reductions of up to 15% in 2012/13. The drive to reduce costs and, in turn, audit fees is to be commended and welcomed.
- 1.1.5 The Commission also charge fees for certification work and set a schedule of hourly rates which are to be held at there 2010/11 levels for 2011/12.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 Legally, we have no choice but to accept the final version of the 2011/12 Work Programme and Scales of Fees and will continue to cooperate and work with our external auditors who serve us.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 As set out above.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 None.

Background papers:

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Nil

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