

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

18 June 2012

Report of the Director of Finance

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 AUDIT COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME AND SCALES OF FEES 2012/13

This report informs Members of the Audit Commission's Work Programme and Scales of Fees 2012/13.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Following consultation, the work programme and fee scales for 2012/13 have been confirmed for audits of local government, fire, police and health bodies. The Audit Commission has also introduced composite indicative fees for certification work. Attached for information is the Audit Commission Work Programme and Scales of Fees for 2012/13 [**Annex 1**].
- 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 2012/13, together with the fee scales for that year.
- 1.1.3 As Members will be aware the Audit Commission has outsourced the work of its in-house audit practice and in March officially confirmed it has awarded five-year audit contracts to four private firms and as part of that process had been able to secure significant reductions in the cost of audit services. As a result of outsourcing the work of the in-house audit practice and the Commission's own internal efficiency savings it is to pass on reductions of up to 40 per cent in audit fees for local government bodies.
- 1.1.4 These lower fees are fixed for five years and clearly very much welcomed at a time when budgets are under pressure. The scale of fees for each audited body is made available on the Commission's website and ours is £60,135 compared to a charge for 2011/12 of £100,225 and a budget provision for 2012/13 of £90,200. The Commission also charge for certification work where the indicative fee is £22,000 which can be met from existing budgetary provision.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 Legally, we have no choice but to accept the final version of the 2012/13 work programme and scales of fees and will continue to cooperate 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.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 Members are asked to **note** and **endorse** the contents of the report.

Background papers:

contact: Neil Lawley

Nil

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	N / A	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N / A	
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		Not applicable.

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.