

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

07 October 2013

Report of the Director of Finance and Transformation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE AUDIT OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13

To inform Members of the outcome of the audit of the Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Our external auditor (Gant Thornton UK LLP) is required to issue a report to those charged with governance covering, amongst other things, the outcome of the audit of the Accounts, and for this to be endorsed and approved before the Accounts are signed off.
- 1.1.2 Under the Council's constitutional arrangements the External Auditors Report for 2012/13 [**Annex 1**] was presented and approved at the General Purposes Committee on 2 September.

1.2 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 1.2.1 Members will note there were no material issues that needed to be brought to the attention of the General Purposes Committee following the audit.
- 1.2.2 There were a small number of minor technical or textual changes. Since only technical or textual changes have been made to the Accounts following the audit, I do not propose circulating copies of the audited Accounts to all Members. For completeness, however, the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee is to sign a copy of the audited accounts at the appropriate time. A copy of the Statement of Accounts 2012/13 will be placed in the Members' library and made available on the Council's website.
- 1.2.3 In addition, we have prepared a Summary Statement of Accounts document for publication, copies of which will also be placed in the Members' library and made available on the Council's website.

- 1.2.4 With regard to value for money it was found that in all significant respects the Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2013.
- 1.2.5 The work supporting the VFM conclusion includes a review to determine if the Council has proper arrangements in place for securing financial resilience. The overall conclusion is that for each of the areas reviewed the Council has arrangements in place which meet or exceed adequate standards. Based on a traffic light system all but one area reviewed was assessed as green. The one exception was where the identification of savings in later years had yet to be identified. A copy of the report on securing financial resilience can be found at **[Annex 2]**.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 There are a number of legislative requirements to consider in the preparation and publication of the Statement of Accounts that have been addressed as we moved through the closedown process.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 The cost of the work is as notified to us in the 2012/13 Audit Plan.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 The Statement of Accounts is a statutory document and, therefore, failure to prepare and publish the Accounts in accordance with proper accounting practice and within the statutory timescale could lead to qualification of the Accounts.

Background papers:

Nil

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