

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

23 January 2017

Report of the Director of Finance and Transformation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the receipt of the Annual Audit Letter for the year ended 31 March 2016.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 As in previous years the Annual Audit Letter summarises the main outcomes from the work carried out by our external auditors and in this case for the year ended 31 March 2016. As such it repeats the headline messages in the Audit Findings Report reported to this Committee in September.
- 1.1.2 The Letter is the prime means through which the results of audit and performance assessment work are communicated to Members, the public and other stakeholders. A copy of the Annual Audit Letter for the year 2015/16 is attached at **[Annex 1]**.
- 1.1.3 I arranged for the Letter to be circulated to all Members by e-mail and for it to be made available on the Council's website.
- 1.1.4 The key messages drawn from the letter are set out below:
- 1) The Council's accounts were prepared to a high standard.
 - 2) The Council continues to have a robust financial planning framework.
 - 3) The Council continues to address the significant financial pressures faced in a structured way, with the introduction of a comprehensive Savings and Transformation Strategy and planned "tranches" of savings to allow time for effective project planning and implementation.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 The Annual Audit Letter fulfils the requirement to communicate the results of audit activity to Members, the public and other stakeholders.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 As set out in the Annual Audit Letter for the year ended 31 March 2016.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 The work carried out by our external auditors gives an independent and informed opinion of the Council's performance and financial management and is an important component of the Council's accountability to its residents and taxpayers.

Background papers:

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Nil

Sharon Shelton

Director of Finance and Transformation