

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

22 January 2018

### 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 2017.

#### 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 2017. 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 2016/17 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) You employed effective processes for producing accurate and high quality draft financial statements, which were supported by good working papers.
- 2) The changes made to the accounts were minor, either being textual or presentational in nature. Many of the adjustments were below the threshold which requires us to report to Those Charged With Governance.
- 3) Concluded that you have proper arrangements to plan finances effectively to manage the medium term financial position of the Council.

#### 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 2017.

**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:

contact: Neil Lawley

Nil

Sharon Shelton

Director of Finance and Transformation