

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

13 November 2014

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.

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 2014. 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 2013/14 is attached at **[Annex 1]**.

1.1.3 The Director of Finance and Transformation 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 produced to a high standard.
- 2) The Council continues to have a strong focus on effective financial management, with a robust medium term planning framework and well established processes for budget monitoring.
- 3) There is an effective framework to address financial pressures and to deliver planned savings.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 The 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 None.

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 council taxpayers.

Background papers:

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Nil

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance and Transformation