

TO: **GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**
25TH JANUARY 2017

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER
Chief Executive/Borough Treasurer

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive the external auditor's Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **To note the Annual Audit Letter 2015/16 at Appendix 1.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Annual Audit Letter must be considered in public by those charged with governance. In Bracknell Forest this is the Governance and Audit Committee. However, given the Executive's overall responsibilities it is important that it also receives the report.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The external auditor (Ernst & Young) is required to provide the Council with an Annual Audit Letter (set out at Appendix 1). The letter summarises the findings from the 2015/16 audit, which comprises three main elements:

- the audit of the financial statements;
- reviewing the Council's Annual Governance Statement, and
- the external auditor's conclusion on the Council's arrangements to secure economy efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

- 5.2 The external auditor has given an unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements. An unqualified conclusion has also been given on the Council's arrangements for securing value for money.

- 5.3 The external auditors will attend the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee to present the Annual Audit Letter 2015/16.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Nothing to add.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 Nothing to add.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 There are no specific issues arising directly from this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 The Annual Audit Letter identifies the strategic financial risks facing the Council which are addressed through the Strategic Risk Register, Service Plans and the Council's financial planning process.

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable.

Contact for further information

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