

**TO: GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
6 NOVEMBER 2012**

**ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2011/12
Borough Treasurer**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive the Audit Commission's Annual Audit Letter for 2011/12.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Governance and Audit Committee note the Annual Audit Letter 2011/12 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.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Audit Commission is required to provide the Council with an Annual Audit Letter (set out at Appendix 1). The letter summarises the findings from the 2011/12 audit, which comprises two main elements:

- the audit of the financial statements; and
- the District Auditor's assessment of the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

- 5.2 The Audit Commission has given an unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements and also concluded that the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.

- 5.3 The detailed findings from the audit were set out in the annual governance report presented to the Committee on 25 September. The three recommendations set out in that report will be implemented before the 2012/13 audit i.e.

- Keep up the improvements in valuation of property, plant and equipment by ensuring evidence to support valuations is timely, reviewed and consistent
- Continue to improve processes for recording related party transactions
- Strengthen controls over the authorisation of journals.

Unrestricted

- 5.4 In order to comply with statutory requirements the Annual Audit Letter 2011/12 has been circulated to all Members of the Council. The District Auditor, Helen Thompson, will attend the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee to present the Annual Audit Letter 2011/12.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Nothing to add to the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 Nothing to add to the report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 None

7 CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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Doc. Ref.

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