

**TO: EXECUTIVE
16 DECEMBER 2014**

**ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2013/14
Chief Executive/Borough Treasurer**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive the external auditor's Annual Audit Letter for 2013/14, which has previously been circulated to all Members.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Governance and Audit Committee and the Executive note the Annual Audit Letter 2013/14 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 2013/14 audit, which comprises two elements:
- the audit of the financial statements; and
 - the external auditor's assessment of the Council's arrangements to achieve value for money in the 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. There are no specific recommendations within the report that the Council is required to address. The two key findings on financial resilience and the Better Care Fund will be managed through the Council's service and financial planning processes.
- 5.3 The external auditor, Helen Thompson, will attend the meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee to present the Annual Audit Letter 2013/14.

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 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**

Not applicable

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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