

Meeting of the Cabinet – 12th February 2014

Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer

Annual Audit Letter 2012/13

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter for 2012/13

Background

2. Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors, have produced an Annual Audit Letter. Representatives of Grant Thornton will be in attendance at this meeting to present the Letter and to discuss its contents with members. A copy of the Annual Audit Letter is attached as Appendix 1.
3. The Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice requires that the external auditors prepare an Annual Audit Letter (the Letter) and issue it to the Council. The purpose of the Letter is to communicate to the Council and its external stakeholders, including members of the public, the key issues arising from auditors' work, which the external auditor considers should be brought to the attention of the Council. The Letter is intended to cover the work carried out by the external auditors since the previous Letter was issued, in this case October 2012.
4. The Letter was reported to the Audit and Standards Committee on 10th December 2013. The Committee resolved that the information contained in the report and Appendices to the report, be noted.
5. The Letter has been published, placed on the Council website, and paper copies made available at a charge of £1.00, as agreed in 2000/01.

Finance

6. The report deals with a number of financial affairs of the Council. No additional resources are required as a direct consequence of the Letter.

Law

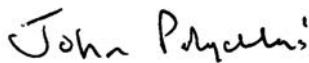
7. Legislation appertaining to Local Authority Audit and Accounts is contained in the Local Government Act 1972, part 2 of the Audit Commission Act, 1998, and regulations made there under.

Equality Impact

8. The proposal takes account of the Council's policy in relation to equality and diversity.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that the Cabinet:-
 - Note the views of the Auditor.
 - Comment on matters in the Annual Audit Letter.



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John Polychronakis
Chief Executive



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Iain Newman
Treasurer

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List of Background Papers

Annual Audit Letter 2012/13
Audit Findings Report 2012/13
Review of the Council's Arrangements for Securing Financial Resilience
for Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council