

**Audit and Standards Committee – 18th September 2014**

**Report of the Treasurer**

**External Audit Findings Report 2013/14**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To present the external auditor's Audit Findings Report to the Audit and Standards Committee for consideration and approval, and to invite the Audit and Standards Committee to approve the formal Management Representation Letter to the Auditor.

**Background**

2. The Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice 2005 requires external auditors to report to those charged with governance on the results of their work. The Council has delegated the responsibility for the approval of the Statement of Accounts, and all audit matters, to the Audit and Standards Committee.
3. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 set out the responsibility of members of local authorities for the adequacy of financial management.
4. Towards the end of each audit of the annual accounts, the Treasurer provides a management representation letter (sometimes known as a letter of comfort), confirming the completeness and reliability of the information and records supplied to the auditors. The external auditors request that this letter should also be signed by the Chairman of this meeting, to evidence members' acknowledgment of responsibility for financial management. A copy of this letter is attached in Appendix 1.
5. Grant Thornton UK LLP were appointed as the Council's external auditor from 1st September 2012 for five years from 2012/13,

## **Audit Findings Report 2013/14**

6. The Report is attached in Appendix 2, and will be presented by the external auditor, Kyla Bellingall. It includes findings from the audit of the 2013/14 accounts, and opinions on the Council's arrangements for securing value for money.

### **Finance**

7. This report refers to various aspects of financial management, but does not give rise to any direct costs.

### **Law**

8. 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 thereunder.

### **Equality Impact**

9. The proposals take into account the Council's Policy on Equality and Diversity.

### **Recommendation**

10. It is recommended that:-
- the Committee considers the Audit Findings Report 2013/14 and the auditor's comments.
  - the Committee approves the Letter of Representation.
  - the Chairman of the Committee signs and dates the Letter of Representation to give evidence of the approval above.



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**Iain Newman**  
**Treasurer**

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**List of Background Papers**  
Audit Findings Report 2013/14