

Audit Committee – 10th April 2008

Report of the Director of Finance

External Audit Plans - 2008/09

Purpose of Report

1. The External Auditor's Draft Audit and Inspection Plan for 2008/09 is attached and the Audit Manager will be available at the meeting to deal with any issues.

Background

2. In addition to their work on the Council's accounts and financial systems, the External Auditors have a wide mandate to carry out Inspection and Value for Money work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice.
3. Details of the work to be carried out under the Code is set out in Appendix 1 to the letter.
4. The key risks identified by the External Auditor are summarised in Table 2 on page 9 of the letter (and in more detail in Appendix 3) and a summary of the Inspection Activity is given in Table 3 on page 13. Members will see that it is proposed to carry out an inspection of regeneration activity across Birmingham and the Black Country for the reasons given on page 14 of the letter.
5. John Gregory, the District Auditor who has been responsible for the Audit for the last five years has now reached the end of his appointment period and will be replaced by Tony Corcoran. The other key personnel working on the audit remain unchanged.

Finance

6. The cost of the proposed work for 2008/09 (excluding grant claim work) is £328,343 an increase of just under 3% compared to 2007/08, excluding the cost of the Regeneration Inspection, or 8% if that is included. Full details of the fee are set out in Appendix 2 to the letter.

Law

7. Legislation appertaining to Local Authority Audit and Accounts is contained in the Local Government Act 1999, the Audit Commission Act, 1998, and regulations made therein.

Equality Impact

8. The work included in the plans will help to protect the interests of children and young people, albeit they were not consulted on, or involved, with the development of the plan.

Recommendation

9. That Members note the contents of this report and approve the External Audit plan for 2008/09.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Williams', with a horizontal line underneath.

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Mike Williams
Director of Finance

Contact Officer : Mike S. Williams
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