

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Monday 23rd
November 2015

Is the final decision on the recommendations in this report to be made at this meeting?

No

External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter

Final Decision-Maker	Audit and Governance Committee
Lead Head of Service	Head of Finance and Resources
Lead Officer	Paul Riley
Report Author	Report prepared by Janette Gill
Is this a key decision report	No
Classification	Public
Wards affected	N/A

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. It is recommended that the Committee note and comment on the External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter included at Appendix A to this report and consider whether any recommendations should be made to Policy and Resources Committee.

Issues for Consideration:

2. To consider the External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter for the year ended 31st March 2015

This report relates to the following corporate priorities:

- The council is committed to delivery of Value for Money services and securing a successful economy for Maidstone Borough Council
- This Annual Audit Letter outlines its measures in securing that commitment

Timetable

Meeting	Date 23 November 2015
Audit & Governance Committee	
Maidstone Borough Council	

External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to communicate the key findings, contained within the Annual Audit Letter, arising from the work of the External Auditor's Grant Thornton.
 - 1.2 The Annual Audit Letter is intended to communicate key messages to the Council, External Stakeholders and Members of the public.
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2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Annual Audit Letter will report a summary of the findings from the Annual Audit of the Statement of Accounts 2014/15 and will focus on three areas of work such as Financial Statements Audit (including the Audit Opinion), Value for Money (VfM) conclusion and Certification of the Housing Benefit grant claim.
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3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Annual Audit Letter summarises the findings from the work undertaken by the External Auditors for the financial year ending 31st March 2015. Representatives from Grant Thornton UK LLP will be in attendance at this meeting to present the report.

It is recommended that this report is considered by the Audit and Governance Committee in accordance with the terms of reference detailed within Part 2 of the Council's Constitution.

Alternative Action and why not Recommended

- 3.1 The Committee, and the Council, could choose not to acknowledge the comments made by the External Auditor, but this is an independent view of how the Authority is operating. It offers Stakeholders to form a view of how the Council is performing efficiently and effectively on a range of areas including the delivery of Value for Money Services.

4. IMPLICATIONS

The implications arising from this report are in the following table:

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	Delivery of Value for Money Services	Head of Finance & Resources
Risk Management	Forms a key part of the Corporate Governance arrangements which are assessed as part of the Annual Audit	Chief Accountant
Financial	The financial implications arising from the work of External Audit are detailed within Appendix A	Section 151 Officer & Finance Team

5. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: The External Auditor’s Annual Audit Letter 2014/15

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are no background papers for this report.