

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

11TH JUNE 2012

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE & CUSTOMER SERVICES

Report prepared by: Paul Holland (Senior Accountant)

1 AUDIT COMMISSION PROGRESS REPORT – JUNE 2012

1.1 Issue for Decision

1.1.1 To consider the report of the External Auditor on the progress to date against the 2011/12 audit plan. The External Auditor will be present at the meeting to answer any questions.

1.2 Recommendation of the Head of Finance & Customer Services

1.2.1 That Audit Committee notes the External Auditor's progress report attached as **Appendix A**.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 The Audit Commission produces an annual audit plan and monitors its work for each local authority against that plan. Details of key dates in the plan are given in the attached progress report in its **Appendix A**.

1.3.2 The External Auditor has raised no concerns with the Council in their report on progress to date. In general the progress of the External Auditor is in line with the original Audit Plan.

1.4 Alternative Actions and Why Not Recommended

1.4.1 Due to the responsibilities of both the External Auditor and this Committee a progress report of this sort is appropriate for consideration. To not consider the report would weaken the control over the process that is available to the Committee.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.5.1 The External Auditor's Audit Plan is focusing on the Auditor's opinion being issued by the Statutory deadline of 30th September 2012.

1.6 Risk Management

1.6.1 This report helps this Committee's governance responsibilities and aids the mitigation of risk of failure to produce the statutory accounts by the

due date through the provision of timely warnings regarding possible issues.

1.7 Other Implications

Financial	<input type="checkbox"/>
Staffing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental/Sustainable Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights Act	<input type="checkbox"/>
Procurement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asset Management	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.8 Relevant Documents

1.8.1 Appendices: Appendix A – Audit Commission Progress Report

<u>NO REPORT WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THIS BOX BEING COMPLETED</u>	
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If yes, when did it appear in the Forward Plan? _____	
Is this an Urgent Key Decision?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Reason for Urgency</u>	
Not applicable	