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|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>        | GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE                 |                                |                           |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>               | EXTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER |                                |                           |
| <b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>      | 15 DECEMBER 2014                     |                                |                           |
| <b>REPORT OF:</b>             | CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR               |                                |                           |
| <b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b> |                                      |                                |                           |
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| <b>Director</b>               | <b>Name:</b>                         | Mark Heath                     | <b>Tel:</b> 023 8083 2371 |
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#### STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

N/A

#### BRIEF SUMMARY

The Annual Audit Letter presents the key issues arising from the external auditors statutory audit of the Council's 2013/14 financial statements and the assessment of arrangements to achieve value for money in the Council's use of resources.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To note the External Auditors' Annual Audit Letter.

#### REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Under the statutory Code of Audit Practice, the external auditors are required to issue a report to those charged with governance, summarising the conclusions from their audit work.

#### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. None.

#### DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3. Under Regulation 27 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 the Annual Audit letter must be published and reported to Members of the Council.
4. The Annual Audit letter attached at Appendix 1 sets out the external auditors conclusions of the Council's 2013/14 accounts.
5. The Annual Audit Letter confirms:
  - o an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2013/14 financial statements;
  - o an unqualified value for money conclusion

The Annual Audit Letter, as attached Appendix 1, has been discussed and agreed with the appropriate officers.
6. The external auditor will be in attendance at the Committee meeting to answer any questions.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### Capital/Revenue

7. None

### Property/Other

8. None

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

### Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

9. Local Government Act 1999

### Other Legal Implications:

10. None

## POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

11. None

KEY DECISION? No

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: |  |
|-----------------------------|--|

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

### Appendices

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | Annual Audit Letter – Year ending 31 March 2014 |
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### Documents In Members' Rooms

|    |      |
|----|------|
| 1. | None |
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### Equality Impact Assessment

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out. | No |
|--|----|

### Other Background Documents

#### Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

|    |      |  |
|----|------|--|
| 1. | None |  |
|----|------|--|