

**REPORT TO:** **AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **28 NOVEMBER 2018**

**TITLE:** **ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2017/18**

**LEAD OFFICER:** **SIMON FREEMAN, HEAD OF FINANCE AND  
DEPUTY TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR  
(01279) 446228**

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- A** The Committee acknowledges the Annual Audit Letter for 2017/18 (attached as Appendix A to the report) and the key issues identified regarding the audit opinion, financial statements and key challenges.

**BACKGROUND**

1. Under Regulation 27 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 the Council is required to ensure that the Annual Audit Letter is considered by a Committee as soon as reasonably possible. This responsibility falls to the Audit and Standards Committee. There is also a requirement for the Annual Audit Letter to be published and made available to the public. Accordingly, the letter has been published on the Council's website.
2. Ernst & Young has produced its Annual Audit Letter which summarises its findings based on the audit work carried out at the Council during 2017/18. Detailed findings resulting from the audit work have been included in the Audit Results Report and presented to the Committee at the meetings on 31 July and 5 September 2018.

**ISSUES/PROPOSALS**

3. The key messages for the Committee are that the Appointed Auditor has:
  - a) Issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's accounts for the 2017/18 financial year;
  - b) Concluded that the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources by issuing an unqualified value for money conclusion;
  - c) Certified completion of the audit on 14 September 2018; and
  - d) Not identified any inconsistencies between the Annual Governance Statement and other information that they were aware of from their work.

4. Work on the certification of grant claims and returns with respect to the 2017/18 financial year is in progress and will be complete during in the near future.
5. The letter is attached to this report as Appendix A and will be presented by the Council's external auditors, Ernst & Young.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Place (Includes Sustainability)**

None specific.

**Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing on behalf of Graeme Bloomer, Head of Place**

### **Finance (Includes ICT)**

The Committee is required under legislation to receive the Annual Audit Letter and the Council must make proper arrangements for its publication.

**Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

### **Housing**

None specific.

**Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

### **Community Wellbeing (Includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)**

None specific.

**Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

### **Governance (Includes HR)**

The report confirms that the Council made proper arrangements to ensure that good systems of governance exist within the Council.

**Author: Colleen O'Boyle, Interim Head of Governance**

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Annual Audit Letter 2017/18

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

None.