

MEETING:	AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE:	29 JUNE 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL AUDIT FEE LETTER AND AUDIT OPINION PLAN
OFFICER:	DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

CLASSIFICATION: Open

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform the Audit and Governance Committee of the work to be undertaken for 2010/11 financial year by the Audit Commission. The report also provides a total indicative fee.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

- THAT** (a) the Audit and Governance Committee notes the content of the Annual Audit Fee Letter; and
- (b) the Audit and Governance Committee notes the content of the Audit Opinion Plan.

Reasons

1. The Audit Commission is the Council's appointed external auditor. It is important the Audit and Governance Committee is informed of the total planned fee and the planned outputs of the work programme.

Considerations

2. The Annual Audit Fee letter (attached) contains details of the amount to be paid to the Audit Commission (£305,191) and an additional amount of £141,826 for the Audit Opinion Plan (attached) on the council's financial statement. The total fee of £447,017 is reflected in the Council's budget so that the proposed is fully funded.
3. An important underlying assumption used in setting the fee is that the general level of risk in relation to the audit of financial statements is not significantly different from that identified in 2009/10.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
David Powell, Director of Resources on (01432) 383519

4. The Audit Commission will issue a separate plan for the audit of the financial statements in Spring 2011. This will detail the risks identified, planned audit procedures and any changes in fee. The Audit Opinion Plan for 2009/10 and associated fees are attached to this report
5. The letter's Appendix 1 contains planned outputs and indicative dates that will help plan committee agendas in 2009/10.

Risk Management

6. The fees indicated in the letter may be affected by a variation in risk levels and these will be monitored as the year progresses.

Background Papers

None