

Cabinet – 16 October 2014 – Written Response to Question not reached

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Questioner: Councillor Paul Osborn

Asked of: Councillor David Perry, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Partnerships and Corporate Leadership

Question: “Do you have full confidence in Deloitte, the Council’s auditors?”

Written Response: Deloitte LLP were appointed as the Council’s external auditors by the Audit Commission in 2002.

The firm has been in existence since the 19th century and they are one of the largest global accounting firms. In 2014, Deloitte’s holds the number one global position with offices located in more than 150 countries. They specialise in audit and assurance, tax, advisory and risk.

The firm have over 13,000 staff in the UK and provides services to wide range of both commercial and public sector clients including Health, Defence, Education, Policing, Local and Regional Government, Transport, etc. Over the last 18 month, they have worked with over 240 Local & Regional Government clients and have over 150 local government professional within their firm. This provides them with the practical experience and deep insight into the issues faced by the sector and political environment in which the Council operates.

In addition to the firm and the partners being regulated by the professional accounting bodies and auditing standards, it is also regulated by the Audit Commission. Following the abolition of the Audit Commission in March 2015, this regulatory function will be taken over by the Public Sector Audit Appointments.

With their presence in the market and their client base especially in Local Government, I have confidence in their ability and knowledge to carry out audit of the statement of accounts for the Council.

Deloitte’s have one more year left on their contract with the Council, therefore 2014/15 is the final year of their audit. The Audit Commission has appointed KPMG LLP to audit the accounts of the Council from 2015/16.