

**REPORT FOR: GOVERNANCE, AUDIT,
RISK MANAGEMENT AND
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 8 December 2015

Subject: INFORMATION REPORT
Annual Audit Letter

Responsible Officer: Dawn Calvert, Director of Finance

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: Annual Audit Letter

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to consider the Annual Audit Letter from the Council's external auditors

Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Reason

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 requires the committee to consider the Annual Audit Letter

Section 2 – Report

Background

- 1 The Council's External Auditor (Deloitte LLP) writes to the Council annually in an Audit Letter summarising the important findings from his audit work.
- 2 The 2014/15 Annual Audit Letter is attached as an appendix to this report and covers the following matters:
 - Accounts and Governance
 - Value for Money
 - Grants
 - Audit Fees
- 3 The key conclusions emerging from the Auditor's work were:
 - The Council received an unqualified audit opinion and value for money conclusion.
 - The summarised recommendations on page 3 were considered by the Committee at its meeting in September 2015 and these are being implemented during the financial year 2015/16.
 - The Council had continued to demonstrate strong financial resilience and has robust systems and processes to manage financial risks and opportunities and prioritise its resources within tighter budgets.

Financial Implications

- 4 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Risk Management Implications

- 5 The risks of not implementing the recommendations are not included in the corporate risk register. However the review of such recommendations is included as a separate task within the closure of accounts timetable for officers to ensure action has been taken. The new external auditors (KPMG) will as part of their audit work, check that the Council has implemented the recommendations from the previous years annual audit letter.

Equalities implications

- 6 There are no equalities implications.

Council Priorities

- 7 The Annual Audit Letter provides assurance that the Council has managed its finances and delivered value for money in accordance with Council's corporate vision and priorities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Dawn Calvert



Chief Financial Officer

Date: 25th November 2015

Ward Councillors notified:

n/a

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Paul Gower (Interim Technical Accounting Manager) Tel: 020-8424-1335 /
Email: paul.gower@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

http://www.harrow.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7533/annual_audit_letter_2015