

Report to: **Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **12 March 2014**

By: **Chief Operating Officer**

Title of report: **External Audit Plan 2013/14**

Purpose of report: **To inform the Committee of the content of the external audit plan for 2013/14**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is recommended to consider and comment upon the External Audit Plan for 2013/14.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 The Plan confirms the core external audit fee as £111,429. The fee is based on a number of assumptions, including the Council providing the auditors with complete and materially accurate financial statements, with good quality supporting working papers, within agreed timeframes. The indicative fee for the certification of claims and returns is £3,600.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The attached external audit plan (for both ESCC and Pension Fund) sets out in more detail the work the external auditors will conduct in order to audit the Council's 2013/14 accounts. The Plan now reflects any relevant issues that have arisen as a result of the audit of the 2012/13 account and other work carried out by KPMG e.g. the Value for Money assessment.

2.2 KPMG initial assessment has not identified any significant risks that are specific to the Council. Areas of audit focus either due to their size, level of judgement or their influence on other balances within the financial statements are:

- Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)
- Cash impact on the financial statements
- Management override of controls.

2.3 Officers will continue to liaise with KPMG to ensure that their work is delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible and that internal and external audit plans are complementary and make best use of audit resources. The Plan will be reported to Cabinet for approval on 22 April 2014.

KEVIN FOSTER
Chief Operating Officer

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Background Documents
None

