

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **24 April 2018**

By: **Chief Operating Officer**

Title of report: **External Audit Plan 2017/18**

Purpose of report: **To inform the Cabinet of the content of the Council's External Audit plan for 2017/18**

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is recommended to approve the External Audit Plan for 2017/18.

1. Background

1.1 The Plan confirms the 2017/18 core external audit fee as £83,572. This is unchanged from the 2016/17 fee. 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.

2. Supporting Information

2.1 The East Sussex County Council External Audit Plan (attached as Appendix 1 to this report) sets out in more detail the work the external auditors will conduct in order to audit the Council's 2017/18 accounts. The Plan reflects relevant issues that have arisen as a result of the 2016/17 account audit and other work carried out by KPMG e.g. the Value for Money assessment.

2.2 KPMG initial risk 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:

- Valuation of land and buildings
- Pension liabilities, the valuation of the Authority's pension liability, as calculated by the Actuary.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 KPMG overall audit approach remains similar to last year with no fundamental changes. 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 was considered by Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 22 March 2018.

KEVIN FOSTER
Chief Operating Officer

Contact Officer: Ola Owolabi, Head of Pensions
Tel. No. 01273 482017
Email: Ola.Owolabi@eastsussex.gov.uk

Local Member(s): All
Background Documents
None