

Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Annual Audit Fee & External Audit Progress Report

22 June 2011

Report of Head of Finance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This reports sets out the audit and inspection work that the Audit Commission proposes to undertake for the 2011/12 financial year at Cherwell District Council and the fee associated with this work. The report also provides a progress report on the work of external audit.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee is recommended to:

- (1) note the contents of the annual audit fee letter (Appendix 1)
- (2) approve the extension of the Engagement Lead – Maria Grindley for a period of 2 further years
- (3) note the contents of the progress report (Appendix 2)

Summary

- 1.1 The audit fee letter was received on 20 April 2011 and discussed with the Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer (151 Officer).
- 1.2 The letter is attached in Appendix 1 – the proposed fee is £114,338. The Audit Commission proposes to set the scale fee for each audited body for 2011/12, rather than providing a scale fee with fixed and variable elements. This amount can be contained within existing 2011/12 budget.
- 1.3 The District Auditor will be able to address any issues that the Committee have with the letter at the meeting.
- 1.4 Appendix 2 contains the latest progress report and the Engagement manager Nicola Jackson will be able to address any issues that the Committee would like to raise at the meeting.
- 1.5 Officers have provided responses to the recommendations and these will be monitored to ensure that they are implemented.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward:

Option One	To note the contents of the report
Option Two	To raise issues or questions relating to this report

Implications

Financial:	The audit fee can be contained within 2011/12 budget of £127,518 Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant 01295 221559.
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report. Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant 01295 221559.
Risk Management:	There are no implications arising from this report Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant, 01295 221559.

Wards Affected

All wards are affected.

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Annual Audit & Inspection Fee 2011/12
Appendix 2	External Audit Progress Report
Background Papers	
None	
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