

EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2010/11

(Report by the Head of Financial Services)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Audit Plan is produced by our External Auditors to explain to the Panel the particular areas that they feel they need to concentrate on during their work relating to the 2010/11 Accounts. It also identifies the basic audit fee and the likely cost for certifying the grant claims.

1.2 This year's Audit Plan is attached as Annex A and will be presented by Dan Holbrook our new Audit Manager from PWC (PricewaterhouseCoopers).

2. CONTENT

2.1 The only items particularly drawn to the Panel's attention are:

Independence

Page 11 highlights the issues about potential conflict of interest between PWC and Senior Officers or Members. Appropriate letters will be circulated to address this.

Grant Claim Certification Fees

The fees from Grant Thornton for this work were £18k in 2008/09 and £23k in 2009/10. PWC are surprised that the fee is so low and are suggesting that it could be £30k or more based on their experience at other authorities. The actual fee will be based on the hours taken at the audit commission determined rates.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Panel are recommended to note the Audit Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None

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