

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

13 December 2013

EXTERNAL AUDITOR – AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Report of the Head of Financial Resources

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To enable the Committee to consider and comment upon the external auditors' (Mazars) regular Audit Progress Report covering the period up to December 2013.
- 1.2 The report will be presented by Gavin Barker, the Council's Senior Engagement Manager.
- 1.3 The reports are a regular feature on this agenda and are aimed at providing updates of the progress made by our external auditor in meeting and fulfilling their role and responsibilities for the Council.
- 1.4 The council notes and welcomes Mark Kirkham, who has replaced Steve Nicklin as its Engagement Lead from 1st November 2013.
- 1.5 It is also pleasing to note that the work on the councils grant claims and returns has been completed and the report is fairly positive. Please see separate report on today's agenda.
- 1.6 The work on auditing a separate set of accounts prepared by officers for the Department for Transport in respect of the Port of Sunderland is almost complete and the outcome will be reported to this committee in due course.
- 1.7 In addition, the Auditors continue to tender for various assurance and advisory work and have been successful in the 3 areas of independently reviewing the Council's:
 - Fees and charges,
 - Advertising, and
 - Internal Audit service.
- 1.8 The report highlights emerging issues and developments that may be relevant and of interest to members in their role on the Audit and Governance Committee. These are detailed in pages 7 to 12 of their report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the attached report.

