

## **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**5 February 2016**

### **EXTERNAL AUDITOR - AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

#### **Report of the Director of Finance**

#### **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 February 2016.
- 1.2 The report (Appendix A) 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 to the Council.
- 1.4 Members will be pleased to note that the audit work in respect of 2014/15 Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant claim has been finalised with a very positive outcome. A grant amendment of only a £63 reduction on a claim of over £125m is a notable achievement as is the fact only two relatively minor issues were raised. The fee of £10,300 for this work was also in line with expectations.
- 1.5 The report also sets out that :
  - a) The auditors provide an update on the work they are planning to carry out for the current financial year (2015/16) which will be reflected in their Audit Strategy Memorandum which they will report to this Committee at the next meeting in March 2016.
  - b) The auditors also set out on pages 5 and 6 of their report revised guidance and criteria on which they will base their Value for Money Conclusion for 2015/2016. Any risks arising from the changed approach will be reflected in their Audit Strategy Memorandum document.
- 1.6 The report also usefully highlights national publications and other 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 page 7 of the report.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

