

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

12 December 2014

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 December 2014.
- 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 to the Council.
- 1.4 Members will be pleased to note that audit of the 2013/14 accounts was completed with no qualifications and that the Authority's Value For Money Conclusion also received a clean bill of health. The Annual Audit Letter covers these issues in more detail which features separately on today's agenda.
- 1.5 The report also sets out other compliance work they either have or are in the progress of completing on behalf of the council. These include:

Certification of the 2013/14 DWP Housing Benefit Claim;
Certification of ten 2013/14 NHS Section 256 Agreements;
Certification of the 2013/14 Teachers Pensions Return;
Audit of the Port of Sunderland's 2013/14 accounts.
- 1.6 The report also usefully highlights quite a few emerging issues and developments that may be of interest to members in their role on the Audit and Governance Committee. These are detailed in pages 7 to 15 of their report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the attached report.

