

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Corporate Governance Committee - 10 December 2012

Annual Audit Letter 2011/2012

Report of the Strategic Director (Shirlene Adam)

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Cllr John Williams

Executive Summary

This report introduces the Annual Audit Letter 2011/12 – prepared by our external auditors, the Audit Commission (and set out in and Appendix to this report). The external audit role has now been taken on by Grant Thornton.

The report summarises their findings from their 2011/12 audit work and explains that there is one outstanding matter being reviewed following notification from a local elector.

1. Background

- 1.1 Each year the Audit Commission is required to make arrangements for the production of an audit letter for each local authority. The letter outlines the following:
 - A conclusion on the Statement of Accounts and annual governance statement;
 - A conclusion on Value for Money;
- 1.2 Members will note that they have already seen at previous meetings, the more detailed reports on the audit of the Councils accounts.
- 1.3 Stephen Malyn, Grant Thornton (formerly Audit Commission) will be attending the meeting on 10th December 2012.

2. Financial Issues / Comments

- 2.1 The Council is pleased to note the unqualified opinion on both the Statement of Accounts, and our arrangements for Value for Money. We also note the outstanding issue raised by a local elector and will support any review by our external auditors.

3. Legal Comments

- 3.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

4. Links to Corporate Aims

- 4.1 No direct implications.

5. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

- 5.1 No direct implications.

6. Equalities Impact

6.1 No implications based on this letter. Should any further review be required following the conclusion of the work on the potential objection, then a full Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed at that time.

7. Risk Management

7.1 Any risks identified will feed in to the corporate risk management process.

8. Partnership Implications

8.1 No implications based on this letter.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Members are requested to note the Annual Audit Letter 2011/12.

Contact Officers:

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2 October 2012

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Dear Member

Taunton Deane Borough Council Annual Audit Letter 2011/12

I am pleased to submit my Annual Audit Letter which summarises my 2011/12 audit of Taunton Deane Borough Council

Financial statements

On 24 September I presented my Annual Governance Report (AGR) to the Corporate Governance Committee outlining the findings of my audit of the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements. I will not replicate those findings in this letter.

Following the Corporate Governance Committee on 26 September I:

- issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts; and
- concluded that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources.

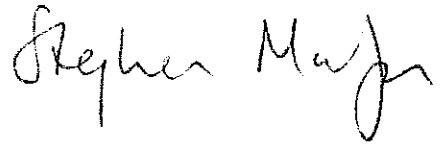
I am unable to formally conclude the audit until I have completed my consideration of matters brought to my attention by a local authority elector. However, I am satisfied that these matters do not have a material effect on the financial statements or a significant impact on the council's use of resources.

Closing remarks

I have discussed and agreed this letter with the Chief Executive and Strategic Director. I wish to thank the finance staff for their positive and constructive approach they have taken to my audit. I also wish to thank senior management and the Corporate Governance Committee for their support and co-operation during the audit.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Malyn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'S'.

Stephen Malyn
District Auditor