

Agenda for Audit and Governance Committee

Thursday 16 November 2017, 2.30pm

[Members of the Committee](#)

Venue: Council Chamber, Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL

[View directions](#)

Contact: [Amanda Coombes](#), 01395 517543 (or group number 01395 517546): Issued 7 November 2017



East Devon District Council
Knowle
Sidmouth
Devon
EX10 8HL

DX 48705 Sidmouth

Tel: 01395 516551

Fax: 01395 517507

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

1 [Public speaking](#)

2 Minutes for 21 September 2017 (pages 3-6)

3 Apologies

4 Declarations of interest

Guidance is available online to Councillors and co-opted members on making [declarations of interest](#)

5 [Matters of urgency](#) – none identified

6 To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including press) have been excluded. There are no items that officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.

Part A Matters for Decision

7 **Annual audit letter** - KPMG (pages 7-14)

8 **Audit Committee Progress report** – KPMG (pages 15-22)

9 **Future of External Audit** - Strategic Lead Finance (pages 23-24)

10 **Partnership Register** – Management Information officer (pages 25-27)

11 **Internal Audit Planning** – verbal update by the Chairman

12 **Audit and Governance Forward Plan** – Strategic Lead Finance (page 28)

Under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, any members of the public are now allowed to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media). No prior notification is needed but it would be helpful if you could let the democratic services team know you plan to film or record so that any necessary arrangements can be made to provide reasonable facilities for you to report on meetings. This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public. You should take all recording and photography equipment with you if a public meeting moves into a session which is not open to the public.

If you are recording the meeting, you are asked to act in a reasonable manner and not disrupt the conduct of meetings for example by using intrusive lighting, flash photography or asking people to repeat statements for the benefit of the recording. You may not make

an oral commentary during the meeting. The Chairman has the power to control public recording and/or reporting so it does not disrupt the meeting.

Members of the public exercising their right to speak during Public Question Time, but do not wish to be recorded, need to inform the Chairman who will instruct those taking a recording to cease while they speak.

[Decision making and equalities](#)

For a copy of this agenda in large print, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01395 517546

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee held in the Council Chamber at Knowle, Sidmouth on 21 September 2017

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 2.30pm and ended at 3.50pm.

***16 Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

***17 Public Speaking**

There were no members of the public present.

***18 Minutes**

The minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on 29 June 2017 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

***19 Internal Audit Activity - Quarter 2 2017/18**

David Hill, Executive Director from SWAP provided an update on the 2017/18 Internal Audit Plan (Quarter 2). Internal Audit provided an independent and objective opinion on the Authority's control environment by evaluating its effectiveness. Primarily the work included:

- Operational Audit Reviews
- Cross Cutting Governance Audits
- Annual Review of Key Financial System Controls
- IT Audits
- Grants
- Other Special or Unplanned Review

SWAP were pleased to report that there had been no 'Partial Assurance Opinion' audits or significant corporate risks identified in this quarter.

RESOLVED:

that the Internal Audit report be approved.

***20 External Audit Report 2016/17**

Rob Andrews, Manager from KPMG summarised the key findings in relation to the 2016-17 external audit. The report focused on the on-site work which was completed in February 2017 and July 2017 on the Authority's significant risk areas, as well as other areas of financial statements. KPMG had issued an unqualified audit opinion on the authority's financial statement. No audit adjustments had been identified.

KPMG concluded that the Authority had made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The auditor therefore issued an unqualified value for money opinion. Members asked questions around improvements to the S106 process for which KPMG had offered a reassurance and also cash in transit.

The Chairman wished to thank KPMG colleagues for their report.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.

***21 Statement of Accounts 2016/17 including Governance Statement**

The Financial Services Manager presented Statement of Accounts for 2016/17. The Auditors were anticipating issuing an unqualified audit opinion once the Accounts had been approved by the Audit & Governance Committee.

The report compared the final position on the Council's Accounts compared with the position presented to members at Outturn stage. No amendments had been made which affect the Council's reported financial position given in the Outturn Report in June 2017. Members discussed issues around the Pension Scheme and the impact upon it due to increases in life expectancy. The possibility of inviting a senior Pension Scheme Actuary to a future meeting was discussed. The Strategic Lead, Finance report clarified the volatility funds built into the accounts. Councillor John Dyson highlighted a number of typographical errors in the Statement of Accounts which were noted by the Financial Services Manager. He also asked a question on the reason for the substantial increase in S106 contributions in 2016/17 from 2015/16. It was confirmed that the next Statement of Accounts would come to the June 2018 meeting.

Governance Statement

The Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations 2015 required the Council to prepare and publish an annual governance statement. This was a public document that reported on the extent to which the council complied with its own code of corporate governance. The Annual Governance Statement explained how the council makes decisions; managed its resources in line with the council's priorities; and achieved the required outcomes for service users and communities.

The Chairman thanked the Strategic Lead, Finance, Financial Services Manager and all their colleagues for producing the accounts.

RESOLVED:

that the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts including the Governance Statement be approved.

***22 Letter of Representation**

Members were asked to note the letter to KPMG in respect of the audit of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 confirming the council's position, documents produced and the sound processes in place.

RESOLVED:

that the letter be noted.

***23 Expenditure on consultants and agency staff 2016/17**

As requested by the Committee Members, the report detailed capital and revenue spend on consultants and specialist advice and agency staff for 2016/17.

RESOLVED:

that the details of expenditure on consultants and agency staff in 2016/17 be noted.

***24 RIPA Policy**

The Strategic Lead Governance & Licensing presented the strategic oversight of the council's RIPA function through an annual report and sought adoption of the revised Policy. In response to a question on how the RIPA function maybe used the Strategic Lead Governance & Licensing reported that in maybe used for fly tipping and licensing

in cases of underage sales of alcohol. He also confirmed that its application was an office only function.

RESOLVED:

1. that the content of the report including the annual report for 2015/16 and 2016/17 be noted, and
2. that the revised RIPA Policy contained at Appendix A approve and adopted.

25 Committee membership numbers

To make a recommendation to Council to increase the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee by an additional 2 members from 8 Councillors to 10.

RECOMMENDED:

The Committee recommend to Council that;

1. the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee be increased from 8 councillors to 10, and
2. that the Council's constitution was amended to reflect this change along with an increase in the quorum from 2 to 3, and
3. that Council to appoint the 2 additional members comprising 1 Conservative and 1 Independent.

***26 Audit and Governance Forward Plan**

Members noted the contents of the Committee Forward Plan for 2017/18.

Items to be considered at the November committee included:

- Annual audit letter
- Risk management review – half year review
- Future of External Audit
- Partnership Register
- Surveillance Commissioner's Report
- Internal Audit Planning

RESOLVED:

that the Forward Plan be noted.

Attendance list

Councillors:

Mark Williamson (Chairman)
Dean Barrow (Vice Chairman)
John Dyson
Cherry Nicholas
Bill Nash

Apologies:

Paul Diviani
Steve Gazzard
John Humphreys
Ben Ingham

Officers present:

Simon Davey, Strategic Lead – Finance

Laurelie Gifford – Financial Services Manager
Mark Williams – Chief Executive
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead – Governance and Licensing (minute *24 only)
Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer
Darren Gilbert, Director, KPMG
Rob Andrews, Manager, KPMG
David Hill, Executive Director, SWAP
Georgina Teale, Senior Auditor, SWAP

Chairman Date.....



Annual Audit Letter 2016/17

East Devon District Council

kpmg.com/uk

October 2017

Contents

Report sections

Summary 3

Appendices

- 1. Summary of reports issues 5
- 2. Audit fees 7

This report is addressed to the Authority and has been prepared for the sole use of the Authority. We take no responsibility to any member of staff acting in their individual capacities, or to third parties. Public Sector Audit Appointments issued a document entitled Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies summarising where the responsibilities of auditors begin and end and what is expected from audited bodies. We draw your attention to this document which is available on Public Sector Audit Appointment's website (www.psa.co.uk).

External auditors do not act as a substitute for the audited body's own responsibility for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied with any part of KPMG's work, in the first instance you should contact Darren Gilbert, the engagement lead to the Authority, who will try to resolve your complaint. If you are dissatisfied with your response please contact the national lead partner for all of KPMG's work under our contract with Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, Andrew Sayers (andrew.sayers@kpmg.co.uk). After this, if you are still dissatisfied with how your complaint has been handled you can access PSAA's complaints procedure by emailing generalenquiries@psaa.co.uk, by telephoning 020 7072 7445 or by writing to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, 3rd Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.

The contacts at KPMG in connection with this report are:

Darren Gilbert

Director

Public Sector Audit

T: +44 292 046 8205

E: Darren.gilbert@kpmg.co.uk

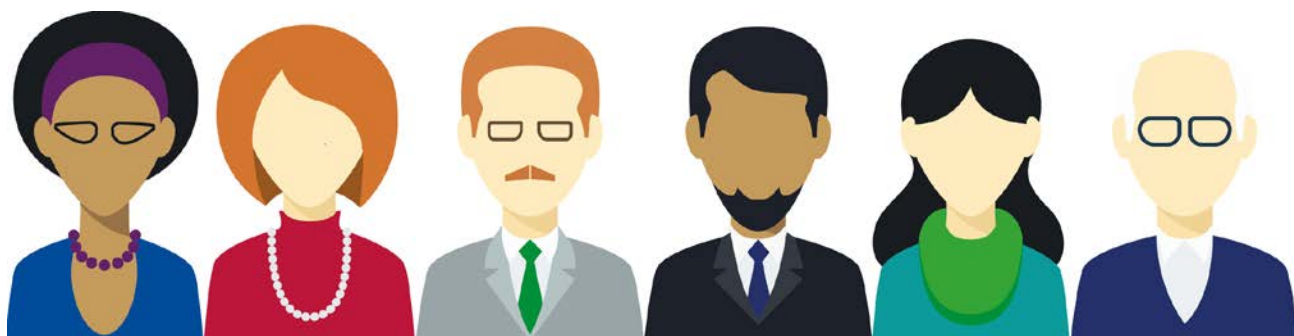
Rob Andrews

Manager

Public Sector Audit

T: +44 117 905 4773

E: rob.andrews@kpmg.co.uk



Section one

Summary

This Annual Audit Letter summarises the outcome from our audit work at East Devon District Council in relation to the 2016/17 audit year. Although it is addressed to Members of the Authority, it is also intended to communicate these key messages to key external stakeholders, including members of the public, and will be placed on the Authority's website.



VFM conclusion

We issued an unqualified conclusion on the Authority's arrangements to secure value for money (VFM conclusion) for 2016/17 on 21 September 2017. This means we are satisfied that during the year the Authority had appropriate arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources.

To arrive at our conclusion we looked at the Authority's arrangements to make informed decision making, sustainable resource deployment and working with partners and third parties.

VFM risk areas

We undertook a risk assessment as part of our VFM audit work to identify the key areas impacting on our VFM conclusion and considered the arrangements you have put in place to mitigate these risks.

Our work included specific consideration of the following VFM audit risk areas:

- Relocation of the Council Head Office;
- Medium Term Financial Plan; and
- Impact of performance of Strata Service solutions (IT provider established jointly by the Authority with two other councils) on the authority.

Audit opinion

We issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's financial statements on 21 September 2017. This means that we believe the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority and of its expenditure and income for the year.

Financial statements audit

We did not identify any material misstatements. There were a number of presentational adjustments required to ensure that the accounts are compliant with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 ('the Code').

There were no unadjusted audit differences identified by our audit of the Authority's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017.

Other information accompanying the financial statements

Whilst not explicitly covered by our audit opinion, we review other information that accompanies the financial statements to consider its material consistency with the audited accounts. This year we reviewed the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report. We concluded that they were consistent with our understanding and did not identify any issues.

Section one

Section 106 Follow Up

In last year's audit we undertook specific work on Section 106 agreements in response to a formal objection from a local elector. Section 106 agreements cover the obligations placed on developers when the Council grant planning permission, and often contain financial contributions that are payable to the Council once certain conditions are met. We produced a specific report last year on this work, which included a number of recommendations for improving the Council's arrangements for managing the s106 process.

Whilst there were no objections raised during the 2016/17 audit, we did follow up on the recommendations from last year's work. We are pleased to report that the Authority had taken sufficient action to address the areas of weakness we highlighted in the control environment.

Recommendations

We raised no high priority recommendations as a result of our 2016/17 audit work.

As part of our audit work we followed up on the Authority's progress against previous audit recommendations. We are pleased to report that the Authority has taken appropriate action to address the issues that we have previously highlighted regarding bank reconciliations and HRA revaluation adjustments.

Certificate

We issued our certificate on 27 September 2017. The certificate confirms that we have concluded the audit for 2016/17 in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Audit fee

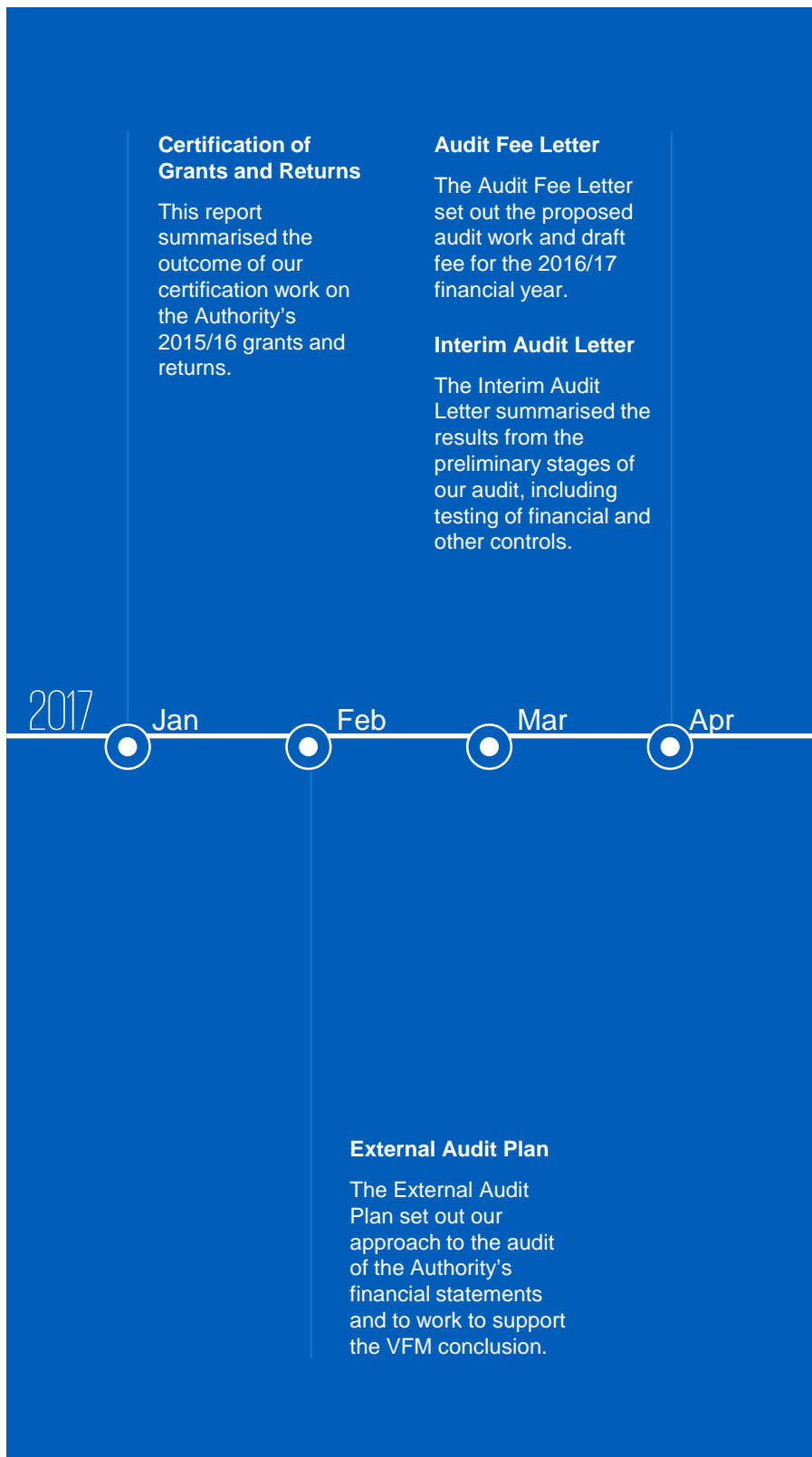
Our fee for 2016/17 was £50,821, excluding VAT. Further detail is contained in Appendix 2.

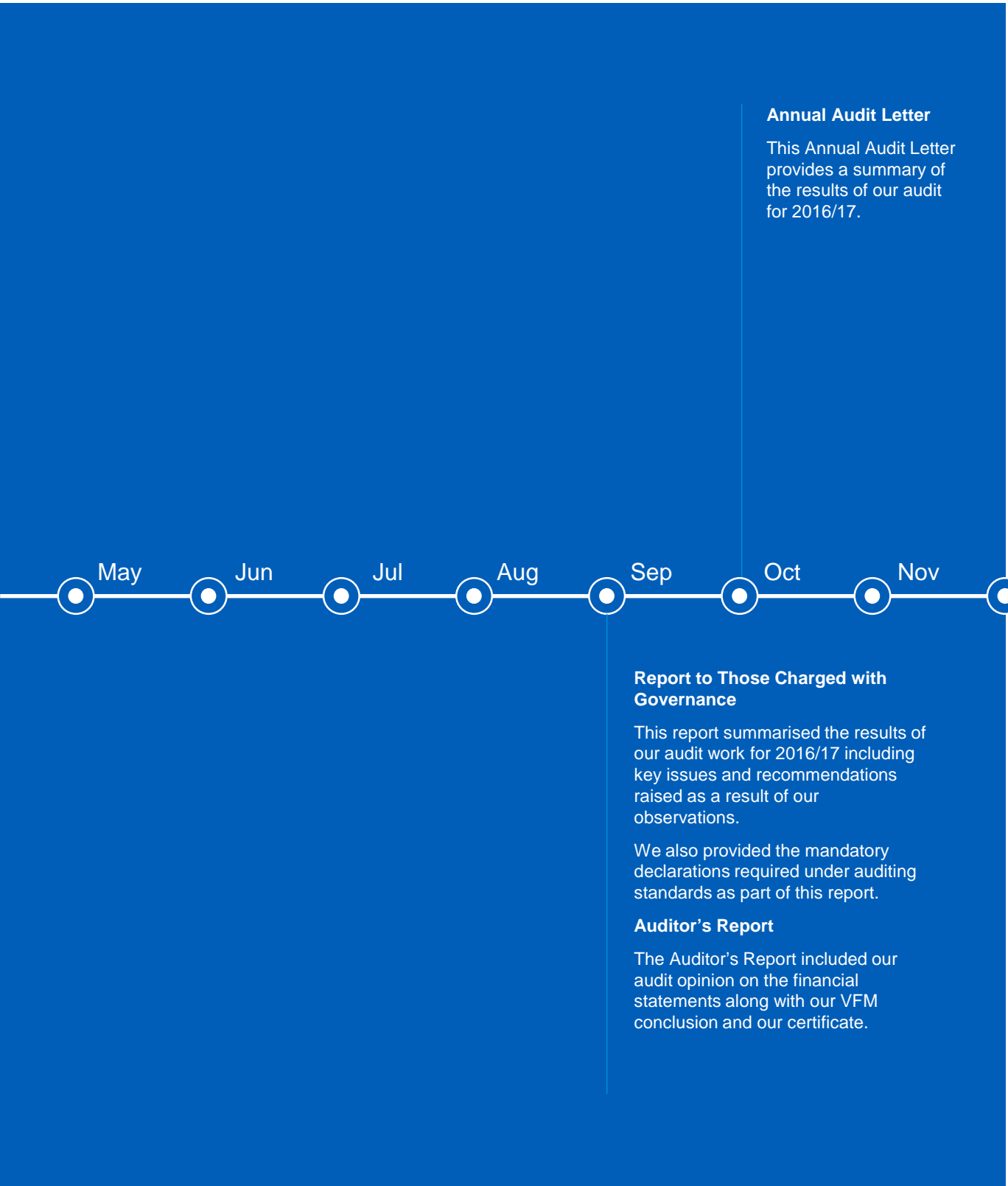
Appendix 1

Summary of reports issued

This appendix summarises the reports we issued since our last Annual Audit Letter.

These reports can be accessed via the Audit Committee pages on the Authority's website at www.eastdevon.gov.uk.





Annual Audit Letter

This Annual Audit Letter provides a summary of the results of our audit for 2016/17.

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Report to Those Charged with Governance

This report summarised the results of our audit work for 2016/17 including key issues and recommendations raised as a result of our observations.

We also provided the mandatory declarations required under auditing standards as part of this report.

Auditor's Report

The Auditor's Report included our audit opinion on the financial statements along with our VFM conclusion and our certificate.

Appendix 2

Audit fees

This appendix provides information on our final fees for the 2016/17 audit.

To ensure transparency about the extent of our fee relationship with the Authority we have summarised below the outturn against the 2016/17 planned audit fee.

External audit

Our final fee for the 2016/17 audit of the Authority was £50,821, which is in line with the planned fee.

Our fees are still subject to final determination by Public Sector Audit Appointments.

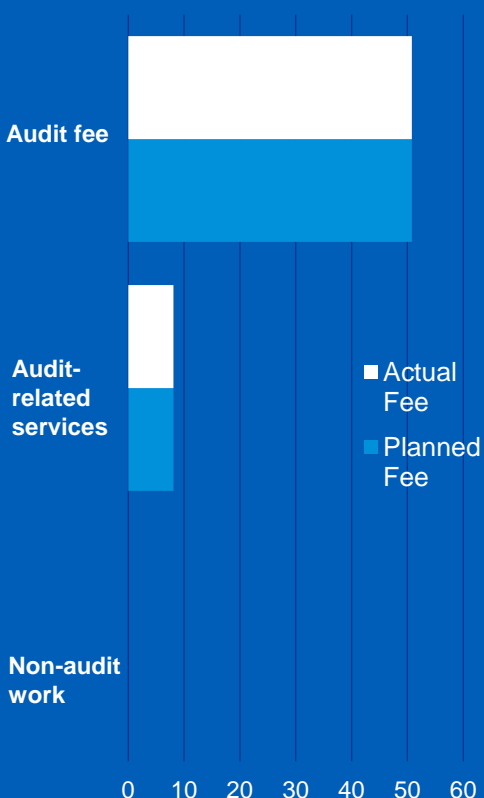
Certification of grants and returns

Under our terms of engagement with Public Sector Audit Appointments we undertake prescribed work in order to certify the Authority's housing benefit grant claim. This certification work is still ongoing. The fee per PSAA is £8,108 however the final fee will be confirmed through our reporting on the outcome of that work in January 2018.

Other services

There were no other services provided during the year

External audit fees 2016/17
(£'000)



kpmg.com/uk



© 2017 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

Designed by CREATE | CRT086038



Progress Report

East Devon District Council

November 2017

Contents

The contacts at KPMG in connection with this report are:

Darren Gilbert
Director
KPMG LLP (UK)
Tel: +44 (0) 292 046 8205
darren.gilbert@kpmg.co.uk

Rob Andrews
Manager
KPMG LLP (UK)
Tel: +44 (0)117 905 4773
rob.andrews@kpmg.co.uk

External audit progress report

Appendices

1. 2016/17 audit deliverables

Page

3





5

This report provides the Audit Committee with an overview on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors.

The report also highlights the main technical issues which are currently having an impact in local government.

If you require any additional information regarding the issues included within this report, please contact a member of the audit team.

We have flagged the articles that we believe will have an impact at the Authority and given our perspective on the issue:

 High impact  Medium impact  Low impact  For information

This report is addressed to the Authority and has been prepared for the sole use of the Authority. We take no responsibility to any member of staff acting in their individual capacities, or to third parties. We draw your attention to the Statement of Responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies, which is available on Public Sector Audit Appointment's website (www.psa.co.uk).

External auditors do not act as a substitute for the audited body's own responsibility for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied with any part of KPMG's work, in the first instance you should contact Darren Gilbert, the engagement lead to the Authority, who will try to resolve your complaint. If you are dissatisfied with your response please contact the national lead partner for all of KPMG's work under our contract with Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, Andrew Sayers, by email to Andrew.Sayers@kpmg.co.uk. After this, if you are still dissatisfied with how your complaint has been handled you can access PSAA's complaints procedure by emailing generalenquiries@psaa.co.uk by telephoning 020 7072 7445 or by writing to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited, 3rd Floor, Local Government House, Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ.



External audit progress report

External audit progress report

This document provides the audit committee with a high level overview on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors.

At the end of each stage of the audit we issue certain deliverables, including reports and opinions. A summary of progress against these deliverable is provided in Appendix 1 of this report.

Area of responsibility	Commentary
Financial statements	An unqualified opinion was issued on the financial statements on 21 September 2017 and reported through our ISA 260 at the last Audit Committee.
Value for Money	An unqualified Value for Money opinion was issued on 21 September 2017 and reported through our ISA 260 at the last Audit Committee.
Certification of claims and returns	The Grants Certification work is currently underway. We have identified 3 errors within the Non-HRA sample, additional testing is currently underway on the remaining cases to establish if the errors are repeated. Due to the number of cases, extrapolation of the error is not required, so the error can be resolved. This means that we do not expect to issue a qualification on the Housing Benefits return, based on issues found to date.
Other work	There is no other work ongoing currently.
2017/18 Audit	We have confirmed fieldwork dates with the Authority for the 2017/18 audit cycle, and have also began planning discussions for the faster close requirements.

— There is no technical update for this committee to note.



Appendix

Appendix 1

2016/17 audit deliverables

Deliverable	Purpose	Timing	Status
Planning			
Fee letter	Communicate indicative fee for the audit year	April 2016	Complete
External audit plan	Outline our audit strategy and planned approach Identify areas of audit focus and planned procedures	March 2017	Complete
Interim			
Interim report	Details and resolution of control and process issues. Identify improvements required prior to the issue of the draft financial statements and the year-end audit. Initial VFM assessment on the Council's arrangements for securing value for money in the use of its resources.	June 2017	Complete, see Interim Letter
Substantive procedures			
Report to those charged with governance (ISA 260 report)	Details the resolution of key audit issues. Communication of adjusted and unadjusted audit differences. Performance improvement recommendations identified during our audit. Commentary on the Council's value for money arrangements.	September 2017	Complete

Appendix 1

2016/17 audit deliverables (cont.)

Deliverable	Purpose	Timing	Status
Completion			
Auditor's report	Providing an opinion on your accounts (including the Annual Governance Statement). Concluding on the arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources (the VFM conclusion).	September 2017	Complete
WGA	Concluding on the Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office.	September 2017	Complete
Annual audit letter	Summarise the outcomes and the key issues arising from our audit work for the year.	November 2017	Complete
Certification of claims and returns			
Certification of claims and returns report	Summarise the outcomes of certification work on your claims and returns for Government departments.	December 2017	Ongoing



© 2017 KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. All rights reserved.

The KPMG name and logo are registered trademarks or trademarks of KPMG International.

Report to: **Audit and Governance Committee**
Date of Meeting: 6 November 2017
Public Document: Yes
Exemption: None



Review date for release

Agenda item: 9

Subject: **External Audit Arrangements 2018/19 Accounts onwards**

Purpose of report: To update members on the recent tender and selection process for the Council's External Auditor in relation to auditing the 2018/19 Accounts onwards.

Recommendation: **To note the outcome of the recent procurement exercise to appointment the Council's external auditors.**

Reason for recommendation: To update the Audit & Governance Committee on the outcome of the recent procurement exercise to appointment the Council's external auditors effective from 2018/19 Accounts for five years.

Officer: Simon Davey – Strategic Lead Finance

sdavey@eastdevon.gov.uk

01395 517490

Financial implications: Financial details are contained within the report

Legal implications: There are no legal implications requiring comment

Equalities impact: Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk

Links to background information:

Link to Council Plan: Continuously improving to be an outstanding council

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 At its meeting in November 2016, the Audit & Governance Committee considered the proposal of joining in with a sector led approach to the procurement of external auditors for local government to operate from 2018/19. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council, which was then adopted, that the joint procurement exercise, via PSAA (Public Sector Audit Appointments), should be the chosen option rather than undertaking a standalone procurement exercise.

2. Outcome

- 2.1 Having carried out their procurement exercise and decided on the scale of work to be allocated to each of the winning bidders, PSAA notified the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive that it was consulting on the appointment of Grant Thornton LLP as being successful in winning a contract and their appointed to EDDC for the 5 years from 2018/19, the appointment starting on 1 April 2018. Any representations to the proposal would need to be received by 22nd September 2017, as there was no reason to object to this appointment no representation was made.
- 2.2 Members will have knowledge of Grant Thornton as the Council's previous auditors before the appointment of KPMG 2 years ago. The email received from PSAA contained the following information in relation to Grant Thornton:

Grant Thornton UK comprises around 4,500 employees delivering services to 40,000 clients. The public sector has played a significant role within the firm for over 30 years. The UK Public Sector Assurance team employs 301 people, including 29 Key Audit Partners, based in designated 'centres of excellence', providing it with locally based public sector specialists across the country. The team is solely dedicated to public audit work in local government and the NHS, with contracts with PSAA, Audit Scotland and the Wales Audit Office. The Public Sector Assurance team is a regular commentator on issues facing the sector and oversees the firm's development of appropriate thought leadership and support, such as its series of publications and workshops on income generation in local authorities. In addition, the team can draw on the commercial skills and experience of a wider assurance team of over 1,516 individuals, to reflect the changing assurance needs of local authorities and NHS bodies.

In developing this appointment proposal, we have applied the following principles, balancing competing demands as much as we can, based on the information provided to us by audited bodies and audit firms:

- ensuring auditor independence, as we are required to do by the Regulations;*
- meeting our commitments to the firms under the audit contracts;*
- accommodating joint/shared working arrangements where these are relevant to the auditor's responsibilities;*
- ensuring a balanced mix of authority types for each firm;*
- taking account of each firm's principal locations; and*
- providing continuity of audit firm if possible, but avoiding long appointments.*

- 2.3 The PSAA will consult on the scale fees for 2018/19 in due course and will publish confirmed scale fees for 2018/19 for opted-in bodies on their website in March 2018. The results of the audit procurement indicate that a reduction in scale fees in the region of approximately 18 per cent should be possible for 2018/19, based on the individual scale fees applicable for 2016/17. Current audit fee with KPMG is £50,821.

Report to: **Audit and Governance Committee**
Date of Meeting: 16 November 2017
Public Document: Yes
Exemption: None



Agenda item: **10**

Subject: **Partnership Review 2016/17**

Purpose of report: Partnership information for the 2016/17 financial year until March 2017 is supplied to allow the Audit and Governance Committee to monitor the status of our partnerships. This follows the year end review of partnerships by responsible officers for 2016/17.

Recommendation: **That the Audit and Governance Committee considers the current status of partnerships until March 2017.**

Reason for recommendation: To ensure that the Partnership Management Policy and Guidance is being followed and all partnership are being monitored.

Officer: Joanne Avery, Management Information Officer
javery@eastdevon.gov.uk
ext 2332

Financial implications: There are no direct financial implications.

Legal implications: There are no direct legal implications

Equalities impact: Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk

Failure to assess, monitor and review our partnerships could impact negatively (i.e. financial, reputational, operationally) on the council.

Links to background information:

- [Appendix A – Year End Partnership Review 2016/17](#)

Link to Council Plan: Living, working, enjoying and outstanding Council

Report in full

1. The EDDC's Partnership Policy requires all partnerships identified by the council to be reviewed annually. There are currently 12 active partnerships as defined by our policy which states that EDDC uses the following as the definition of a partnership: "An agreement between two or more independent bodies to work collectively to achieve an objective." Also a partnership must reflect the following criteria:
 - critical to the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities

- strategic in nature
- require significant resource input from the Council
- have constitution and governance arrangements in place
- have multi-agency membership

2. For this Year End Review for 2016/17 all lead officers involved with a partnership were asked to assess the overall partnership, reviewing budget issues, achievements, forward plans and the ongoing benefit of continuing engagement with the Partnership.
3. There are two Partnerships that are now inactive, the Seaton Regeneration Board which is now a local forum with EDDC involvement and the Exeter and Heart of Devon Growth Board. These will be removed from the Partnership list for 2017/18.
4. The rest of the partnerships are active and met at least three times annually, some more often. There are no major current budget issues with any of the partnerships although most receive some funding from EDDC. It is recommended that our involvement with each of the partnerships continues with benefits of continued engagement with each being outlined below.

Partnership	Active or inactive partnership	Benefit of continued engagement
Exeter Science Park (Exeter Science Park Company Ltd – ESPL)	Active	Key objective of the Council is delivery of a thriving, competitive local economy
Shared ICT service with Exeter City and Teignbridge Councils (Strata)	Active	Council Plan Outstanding Council: efficiencies - both financial, time saving and service resilience
South West Audit Partnership (SWAP)	Active	Council Plan Outstanding Council: efficiencies - both financial, time saving and service resilience
Exmouth Regeneration Board	Active	Continued discussion and strategic regeneration input from cross sector partners is beneficial to development and delivery of projects and impact.
Leisure East Devon	Active	The Council can maintain an oversight and influence the work of our leisure partner.
Devon Rural Housing Partnership	Active	To help ensure that rural affordable housing continues to be delivered in an attempt to meet the need.
DCHOP (Devon & Cornwall Housing Options Partnership)	Active	-sharing of good practice -opportunity to discuss issues and solve problems with other LA's -shared training (and cost benefits) -joint working opportunities, including joint funding bids -consistent and supportive approach to challenges such as new government legislation, funding cuts etc
Greater Exeter Greater Devon	Active	Helps deliver EDDC's corporate ambitions

Partnership	Active or inactive partnership	Benefit of continued engagement
Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent multiplier of EDDC's £9.3k – 1:22 with £160k from Defra and other LA funding • Continuation of partnership working with key public and private sector partners. Ability to access additional funding for local project
East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Active	Proven partnership delivering AONB Management Plan and Duty of Regard for EDDC under Sec 85 CROW Act 2000 Significant leverage on EDDC funding Strong cross-sector and community engagement and support Key partnership targeting rural economy, farming and forestry Policy development benefits eg LCA and bats Ambassador for EDDC/DCC
East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership	Active	It is a statutory requirement but it does demonstrate the added value of partnership working.

5. A report showing the partnerships detail appears in [Appendix A](#).

Agenda Item: 12



Audit and Governance Committee

16 November 2017

Audit and Governance Committee

Forward Plan 2017/18

Date of Committee	Report	Lead Officer
18 January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal Audit Activity – Quarter 3 2017/18• Audit Committee update• Certification Report• Risk management review – half year review• Surveillance Commissioner’s Report	SWAP KPMG KPMG Management Information Officer Strategic Lead – Governance and Licensing
15 March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Audit Plan 2018/19• External Audit Plan• Audit Committee update• Accounting Policies Approval	SWAP KPMG KPMG Financial Services Manager