

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Audit & Corporate Governance Committee **DATE:** 10th March 2015

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WARD(S): All

PART I FOR DECISION

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT: EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN: 2015-16 and 2016-17

1 Purpose of Report

The Council is required to have an external audit every year. These papers set out the specific plans for 2015-16 and the indicative plan for 2016-17.

2 Recommendations

- a) That the Committee consider and comment upon, and potentially amend, the external audit plans.
- b) That the Committee approve the External Audit Plans.

3 Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities

The actions contained within the attached reports are designed to improve the governance of the organisation and will contribute to all of the emerging Community Strategy Priorities

Priorities:

- *Economy and Skills*
- *Health and Wellbeing*
- *Regeneration and Environment*
- *Housing*
- *Safer Communities*

3b Five Year Plan Outcomes

- Using Resources Wisely

3 Other Implications

(a) Financial

(b) Risk Management

| Risk | Mitigating action | Opportunities |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Legal | | |
| Property | | |
| Human Rights | | |

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Health and Safety | | |
| Employment Issues | | |
| Equalities Issues | | |
| Community Support | | |
| Communications | | |
| Community Safety | | |
| Financial | | |
| Timetable for delivery | | |
| Project Capacity | | |
| Other | | |

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The full details of the plans are included in Appendix A (as detailed in the main agenda papers). The 2015-16 plan sets out the key areas that BDO will be looking over in the summer and during their interim audit. The last year's financial statements were approved by the s151 officer and the external auditor in line with timescales, but as per the previous meeting's report, there is still further work to be done to improve the Council's closure procedures further. In 2014-15, the Council's Value for Money was qualified in respect of Children's Social Care services and this has been highlighted in this report.
- 5.2 The 2015-16 planning letter highlights a high level overview of the audit plan along with indicative fees. These show a reduction of £42k due to the Audit Commission's re-procurement exercise for the 2015-18 external audits. BDO will remain the Council's external auditor over this period.
- 5.3 The Committee has received an update at this committee about progress in improving the closedown procedures for 2015-16, and this will be reported verbally at the Audit Committee alongside the appendices to this papers.

6 Comments of Other Committees

None

7 Conclusion

Following consideration of the External Audit Plans, Committee Members are requested to approve the External Audit Plans.

8 Appendices Attached

'A' - External Audit Planning Letter 2015-16 (Pages105-128 in main agenda pack)

9 Background Papers None