

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ON 25 FEBRUARY 2021

PART A : REPORT

SUBJECT: Annual Audit Letter for the year ended 31 March 2020
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REPORT AUTHOR: Carolin Martlew, Financial Services Manager

DATE: January 2021

EXTN: 37568

PORTFOLIO AREA: Corporate Support
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Annual Audit Letter for the year ended 31 March 2020 is attached to this report. The Annual Audit letter is produced by the Council's external Auditors EY and forms part of the regulatory framework. The Annual Audit letter brings the 2019/20 audit to a conclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The committee is requested to note the Annual Audit Letter from the Council's external auditors EY.

1. BACKGROUND:

The Council's external auditors EY reported the detailed findings from the 2019/20 audit in the Audit Results Report, which was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee, before approving the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020, on 19 November 2020. The Annual Audit letter brings the 2019/20 audit to a conclusion.

2. PROPOSAL(S):

The purpose of the Annual Audit Letter is for the Council's external auditors to communicate the key issues arising from the external audit work, which they consider should be brought to the attention of all the members of the Council and external stakeholders, including the public. Members are given the opportunity to raise any issues with the external auditors EY who will be presenting the Audit Letter.

The Annual Audit Letter also raises the issue of audit fees in appendix A. The planned fee for 2019/20 was £43,969. The final fee proposed fee of £76,451 is an increase of £32,482. The fees are still subject to negotiation, with the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA PSAA), who are the organisation who have to approve the fees charged as part of the contract.

3. OPTIONS:

n/a

4. CONSULTATION:		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		✓
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		
6. IMPLICATIONS:		

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION: To ensure that members of the Committee are fully informed about of the key issues raised by the audit for 2019/20.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS: None
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