

By: John Simmonds, Cabinet Member for Finance & Business Support
Andy Wood, Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 11 April 2013

Subject: **External Audit – Fee letter 2013/14**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This paper presents the planned external audit fee for the Council for 2013/14

FOR DECISION

Introduction and background

1. The Audit Commission independently set the proposed work programme and associated scale fees for the 2013/14 audit year. The Audit Commission defines the scale audit fee as “the fees required to carry out the work necessary to meet their statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice.”

Planned audit fee 2013/14

2. The attached letter sets out the planned audit fee, proposed work programme for the 2013/14 financial year, audit timetable and key members of the Grant Thornton audit team. The work proposed by the external auditors covers three areas:
 - the audit of our financial statements
 - the work to reach a conclusion on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in our use of resources (the value for money conclusion)
 - the work on our whole of government accounts return.
3. The audit fee proposed for 2013/14 is set at the scale fee of £207,900 (same as for 2012/2013). At this stage of the planning process, Grant Thornton has not identified any local risk factors to vary from the scale fee.
4. The letter also sets out the proposed fees for the pension fund audit and grants certification work in 2012/13. These are £30,568 and £6,250 respectively. This is also the same as that for the previous year.

Recommendation

5. Members are asked to approve the fees proposed in the fee letter.

Neeta Major
Interim Head of Internal Audit
Ext: 4664