

Report of the Director of Resources

Report to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 9th November 2012

Subject: KPMG report – Annual Audit Letter 2011/12

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. In line with proper audit practice, KPMG have issued a summary of the key audit findings for the 2011/12 financial year (**see Appendix 1**). The report concludes that the auditors have been able to provide unqualified opinions in respect of all the areas they are required to assess. In addition, the audit report confirms that the Council has mitigated against the key risks identified for 2011/12.
2. For 2012/13, KPMG have only made one recommendation. The recommendation was in respect of Academy transfers and the Council has updated procedures in order to mitigate the risk identified.

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to note the conclusions and recommendations arising from the 2011/12 external audit process.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the key external audit findings in respect of the 2011/12 financial year.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Section 4 of the Code of Audit Practice 2010 for Local Government bodies requires external auditors to issue an Annual Audit Letter. The purpose of preparing and issuing annual audit letters is to communicate to the audited body and external stakeholders, including members of the public, the key issues arising from auditors' work. The annual audit letter should cover the work carried out by auditors since the previous annual audit letter was issued and matters previously reported to those charged with governance.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 Members should note the assurances KPMG give in respect of:
- An unqualified Value for Money conclusion;
 - The Annual governance Statement complies with proper practice and is not inconsistent with other information they are aware of from the audit of the financial statements;
 - An unqualified audit opinion on the 2011/12 Statement of Accounts; and
 - The Council's Whole of Government Accounts return to the HM Treasury was consistent with the audit financial statements.
- 3.2 The report also recognises that the Council continues to act to mitigate key risks identified in the audit reports and to implement any recommendations made. To date KPMG have made only one recommendation in respect of 2012/13, namely that any transfer of a school to Academy status is supported by the relevant legal documents to ensure that the disposal is accounted for in the correct financial period. Procedures have now been amended to ensure such transactions are properly accounted for in the 2012/13 accounts.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 This is a factual report based on evidence provided by the external auditors and consequently no public, Ward Member or Councillor consultation or engagement has been sought.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 This is a factual report based on evidence provided by the external auditors and has no direct implications for equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 As this is a factual report based on evidence provided by the external auditors there are no direct implications for Council policies or City priorities.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 As this is a factual report based on evidence provided by the external auditors there are no direct implications for resources. The report does however include an audit opinion on whether the Council has proper arrangements for securing value for money.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 Under Section 4 of the Code of Audit Practice 2010 for Local Government bodies, external auditors are required to issue an Annual Audit Letter summarising the main audit findings in relation to the financial year.

4.5.2 As this is a factual report based on evidence provided by the external auditors none of the information enclosed is deemed to be sensitive or requesting decisions going forward and therefore raises no issues for access to information or call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 KPMG have confirmed that the Council has adequate controls in place to mitigate the key risks identified within the 2011/12 external audit reports.

5 Conclusions

5.1 There are no major issues arising from the work of external audit and officers continue to actively implement any recommendations raised in the reports.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to note the conclusions and recommendations arising from the 2011/12 audit process.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.