



**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, PROCUREMENT &
IMPROVEMENT**

EXTERNAL AUDIT – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORTS

Purpose of the Report

1. To receive information and comment upon the External Auditors' Annual Governance Reports on the County Council and Pension Fund, prior to these being forwarded to Full Council for approval on 15 September 2016.

Information and Advice

2. The External Auditors, KPMG, have now substantially completed their audit work on the Authority's financial statements for 2015/16 and propose to issue unqualified audit opinions on the County Council and Pension Funds' accounts, subject to satisfactory clearance of the remaining issues.
3. In the course of their work the External Auditors have identified a number of matters, detailed in the attached reports, which they wish to bring to the Audit Committee and Full Council's attention. Whilst the Councils Balance Sheet has been restated since the draft accounts were prepared in June, the overall net worth of the Council has not altered, and the remaining main statements are unchanged.
4. The auditor's report explains that a formal objection to the Council's 2015/16 accounts has been received. The auditor will consider the objection and decide upon what further action is required. Until this issue is resolved, the Council will not be able to publish the formal 2015/16 Statement of Accounts notice of completion.
5. The Audit Director (KPMG), Tony Crawley will be in attendance at the meeting to present the report and to respond to Members' queries.
6. As part of the Audit of Financial Statements process, the Section 151 Officer is required to prepare a Letter of Representation to the External Auditor and the proposed letter is attached for Members' agreement.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are

described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Members of the Audit Committee note the External Auditor's Annual Governance Reports on the County Council and Pension Fund accounts and:
 - a) Note the matters raised in the report before the financial statements are re-signed by the Section 151 Officer
 - b) Note the Letter of Representation attached to this report.

Nigel Stevenson
Service Director – Finance, Procurement & Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
Glen Bicknell, Senior Accountant, Financial Strategy and Compliance

Constitutional Comments

8. Because this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (GB 11/08/2016)

9. The anticipated proposed total fees, excluding the indicative fee for grant claim certification, are £98,213 for Nottinghamshire County Council and £29,926 for the Nottinghamshire Pension Fund.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All