

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services
to
Audit Committee
on
24 June 2015

Report prepared by: BDO External Auditor

BDO: Progress Report to Those Charged with Governance

Executive Councillor – Cllr Ron Woodley

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To report on progress in delivering the 2014/15 Annual Audit Plan.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Committee accepts progress made in delivering the Annual Audit Plans for 2014/15.

3. Background

3.1 A senior representative of BDO (the appointed External Auditor to the Council) will present the key matters from this report to the Audit Committee and then respond to Members' questions.

4. Corporate Implications

4.1 Contribution to Council's Aims and Priorities

Audit work contributes to the delivery of all corporate Aims and Priorities.

4.2 Financial Implications

This audit work will be delivered within the agreed audit fee for 2014/15.

4.3 Legal Implications

The Council is required to have an external audit of its activities that complies with the requirements of the National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice (the Code) and previously the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice before it closed on 31 March 2015. By considering this report, the Committee can satisfy itself that this requirement is being discharged.

4.4 People and Property Implications

None

4.5 Consultation

The planned audit work has been discussed and agreed with the Corporate Director for Corporate Services and the Head of Finance and Resources.

4.6 Equalities Impact Assessment

None

4.7 Risk Assessment

Periodically considering whether the external auditor is delivering the agreed Annual Audit Plan helps mitigate the risk that the Council does not receive an external audit service that complies with the requirement of the National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice.

4.8 Value for Money

The Audit Commission (until the 31 March 2015) and Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (from 1 April 2015) sets the fee formula for determining external audit fees for all external auditors, taking into account the results of the outsourcing of their audit practice and market testing the audit work that is now fully delivered by the private sector audit firms.

4.9 Community Safety Implications and Environmental Impact

None

5. Background Papers

None

6. Attachment: BDO's Progress Report to Those Charged with Governance