

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services  
to  
**Audit Committee**  
on  
**25 September 2013**

Report prepared by: BDO External Auditor

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**BDO: Progress Report to Those Charged with Governance**

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**Executive Councillor – Councillor Moring**

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***A Part 1 Public Agenda Item***

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**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To report on progress in delivering the 2012/13 Annual Audit Plan.

**2. Recommendation**

**2.1 The Committee accepts progress made in delivering the Annual Audit Plan for 2012/13.**

**3. Background**

3.1 A senior representative of BDO (the appointed External Auditor to the Council) will present this report to the Audit Committee and 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

The cost to the Council of external audit for 2012/13 is planned to be £189,351, which is a reduction compared to the previous year achieved through the Audit Commission outsourcing their audit practice and achieving efficiency savings.

4.3 Legal Implications

The Council is required to have an external audit of its activities that complies with the requirements of the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice (the Code). 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 Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice.

4.8 Value for Money

The Audit Commission 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**