

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services
to
Audit Committee
on
24 September 2014

Report prepared by: BDO External Auditor

BDO: Annual Governance Report 2013/14

Executive Councillor – Cllr Ron Woodley

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report summarises the results of the work completed to date for the 2013/14 financial year with regard to:
- the opinion on the Statement of Accounts
 - the conclusion on the adequacy of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the VFM conclusion).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Committee accepts the External Auditor's Annual Governance Report 2013/14.**

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
This audit work contributes to the delivery of all the Council's aims and priorities.
- 4.2 Financial Implications
The fee for the audit work is influenced by the Audit Commission and agreed with the Council before the start of the audit. Issues arising during the course of the audit can impact on the audit fee payable.
- 4.3 Legal Implications
The Council is required by statute 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 contents of this report 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 this statutory requirement is not met.

4.8 Value for Money

The report includes the auditor's conclusion on the adequacy of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the VFM conclusion)

4.9 Community Safety Implications and Environmental Impact

None

5. Background Papers

None

6. Attachment: BDO Annual Governance Report 2013/14