

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC FINANCE

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report responds to the Audit Commission's Annual Audit Letter (AAL) for 2010/11. The Audit Commission (the Commission) will be present to discuss the AAL which is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To note and comment on the Audit Commission's Annual Audit Letter.

3. REASONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1. The Committee's terms of reference includes the duty to scrutinise the Council's financial and non-financial performance, to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process. It also has further responsibilities to approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and to consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports and the report to those charged with governance.
- 3.2. External audit is an essential element of the governance framework, which gives an independent view of the stewardship and accountability roles of the Council. The duties and powers of the external auditor are set out in statute and in the Commission's statutory code of practice. The external auditor appointed for the Council's 2011/12 external audit was the Commission.
- 3.3. The Commission's Code of Audit Practice requires its auditors to prepare an AAL and issue it to each audited body.

4. OVERVIEW

- 4.1. This Committee noted the Commission's Annual Governance Report (AGR) at its September meeting. The report summarised the findings from the 2011/12 external audit covering the Council's financial statements and arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 4.2. The purpose of preparing and issuing the AAL is to communicate to the Council and key external stakeholders including citizens, the key issues arising from auditors' work, which auditors consider should be brought to the attention of the Council, and finalises the work reported in the AGR.

4.3. The AAL informs the Council and citizens that:

4.3.1. The Audit Commission has given an unqualified opinion on the 2011/12 financial statements

4.3.2. The Council has appropriate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness

4.3.3. There are no matters arising regarding the Value for Money work the Audit Commission have completed

4.3.4. The Audit Commission has certified the completion of the 2011/12 external audit

4.3.5. The fee for this external audit was £380,700.

5. **BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

6. **PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT**

Audit Commission Annual Governance Report - Nottingham City Audit 2011/12

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28 September 2012

All Council Members
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commission.gov.uk

Dear Member

Nottingham City Council Annual Audit Letter 2011/12

I am pleased to submit my Annual Audit Letter which summarises my 2011/12 audit of Nottingham City Council.

Financial statements

On 21 September 2012 I presented my Annual Governance Report (AGR) to the Audit Committee outlining the findings of my audit of the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements. I will not replicate those findings in this letter.

Following that meeting I have:

- issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts;
- concluded that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources;
- concluded that there are no matters arising from my value for money work that I need to report; and
- certified completion of the audit.

Audit Fee

The planned and actual fee of £380,700 was the same as the scale fee prescribed by the Audit Commission.

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Closing remarks

I have discussed and agreed this letter with the Acting Chief Executive and Acting Director of Resources. While this has been another challenging year for the Authority I wish to thank the finance staff for their positive and constructive approach they have taken to my audit. I also wish to thank senior management and the Audit Committee for their support and co-operation during the audit.

Yours sincerely

Sue Sunderland
District Auditor

01203 250000

Dear Member
Following that meeting I have
concluded that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and
effectiveness in your use of resources
I am pleased to submit my Annual Audit Letter which summarises my 2017/18 audit of
Hillingdon City Council
Financial statements
On 21 September 2018 I presented my Annual Governance Report (AGR) to the Audit
Committee outlining the findings of my audit of the Authority's 2017/18 financial statements.
I will not replicate those findings in this letter.
The planned audit fee of £380,700 was confirmed as the scope fee prescribed by the Audit
Committee.
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