

**READING BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT BY HEAD OF FINANCE**

TO:	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	28 JANUARY 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	8
TITLE:	EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE		
RESPONSIBLE COUNCILLOR:	CLLR STEVENS	AREA COVERED:	CHAIR OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE
SERVICE:	FINANCIAL	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

1.1 This report introduces the External Auditor's report.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 To consider the External Auditor's updated plan.

2.2 To note that in future we will circulate EY's bulletin as it is published and only include on the agenda at the specific request of a committee member.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 In January we introduced to EY LLP as the new external auditor from the financial year 2015/16 now for a period of 3 years.

4. EXTERNAL AUDIT PRESENTATION AND ATTACHMENTS

4.1 EY have indicated that they will normally attend each meeting of the Committee, and on this occasion have submitted an updated plan for the Committee to consider.

4.2 EY produce quarterly local government sector briefings. We attached the current one to the previous committee agenda and have separately circulated their most recent, which was published shortly after the previous meeting. We intend to circulate these to Committee Members as they are published, but will not normally include on the Agenda unless a Member of the Committee requests inclusion to facilitate discussion of a particular item therein.

4.2 Also, in future, where the Committee is merely being provided information or asked to provide general comments on External Audit's work, we do not intend to provide a cover report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The External Auditor's role is governed by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

7. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS / COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT /EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 None directly from the report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None