

discharge them. Every public authority is accountable for the stewardship of public funds. The responsibility for this stewardship is placed upon the members and officers of the CFA. KPMG's principal objective is to carry out an audit in accordance with the National Audit Code of Audit Practice. Based upon discussion with management and their understanding of the CFA and the Local Government sector, KPMG have noted recent developments and other relevant risks. The Plan has been drawn up to consider the impact of these developments and risks.

4.3 The Plan sets out in more detail KPMG's audit approach for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, including the 2015/16 final accounts audit which KPMG will undertake in summer 2016. KPMG will continue to review this plan during the course of the audit year, and update it where necessary, to reflect developments at the CFA or any changes in their understanding of the issues that it faces.

4.4 Representatives from KPMG will be attending the meeting to answer any questions Members may have on the Plan which is attached as **the Appendix**.

5. Report Implications / Impact

5.1 *Legal (including crime and disorder)*

These are included in the main body of the report.

5.2 *Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)*

KPMG propose a total audit fee of £29,247, which is broken down further in the Plan. KPMG will also be carrying out the assessment of the CFA to determine a local value for money conclusion and this cost is included in the overall price. The planned fee for the accounts work is a reduction on the 2014/15 fee at £38,996. The total cost can be contained within the 2015/16 budget for external audit, which is £48,340.

5.3 *Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)*

External Audit provides reassurance to the general public that the CFA is meeting its statutory obligations. They also work with Internal Audit and the Treasurer in ensuring that effective internal control procedures are in place.

5.4 *Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)*

None.

5.6 *Environmental*

None.

5.7 *Impact upon Our Plan Objectives*

The CFA's Strategic Objective 4 is the attainment of efficiency and the provision of

a value for money service. The provision of external audit assists both effective and efficient management and good corporate governance. It also externally validates the CFA's progress in this area.

6. Background Papers

- a) External Audit Plan 2014/15 (Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report - 28th January 2015)
- b) Appointment of External Auditor (Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report – 28th January 2015)

7. Appendix

Draft 2015/2016 KPMG Audit Plan