

AUDIT COMMITTEE



26 February 2015

External Audit: Audit Progress 2014/15

Report of the External Auditor

Purpose of the Report

1. This report requests that the Committee note the external auditor's progress report on the external audit of Durham County Council to date.

Background

2. The report sets out an update of the work completed by Mazars (external auditor) in respect of the following: -
 - Summary of Audit Progress
 - Emerging Issues and Developments
3. The external auditor's report is attached at Appendix 2.

Summary of Audit Progress

4. Planning for the 2014/15 audit is substantially complete and the Audit Strategy Memorandum is expected to be presented to the next Audit Committee in May 2015.
5. In the coming quarter work will commence on planning for the 2014/15 audit year. This will include:
 - Refreshing the understanding of the business
 - Walkthrough of the key financial systems.
 - Liaison with Internal Audit to share knowledge and avoid duplication
 - Ongoing liaison with Senior Officers and consideration of key agendas and papers.
6. The Audit Commission have issued updated guidance on the Value for Money (VfM) conclusion. The Audit Strategy Memorandum will set out the planned approach to the VfM conclusion for 2014/15.

Emerging Issues and Developments

7. This section provides an update on other areas that members of the Committee may find useful.

Recommendation

8. The Committee is requested to note the contents of the external auditor's progress report.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No direct implications as a result of this report.

Staffing

None

Risk

None

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Accommodation

None

Crime and disorder

None.

Human rights

None

Consultation

None

Procurement

None

Disability Discrimination Act

None

Legal Implications

None