

TITLE	External Audit Fees 2013/14
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Audit Committee on 4 February 2014
WARD	None specific
DIRECTOR	Graham Ebers, Director of Finance and Resources

OUTCOME/BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The work of the Council's external auditors provides external validations of the Council's financial statements, and ensures that they provide a fair and accurate representation to stakeholders of the Audit Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Audit Committee:

- 1) Approves the external audit fees of £139,750 in respect of the 2013 accounts;
- 2) Notes that the External Audit Plan will be submitted to a future meeting of Audit Committee

Background

Local authorities are required under legislation to make appropriate arrangements for the audit of their financial statements, and for a Value for Money conclusion.

Analysis of Issues

The proposed fee of £139,750 will be met from the 2014/15 budget. In the event that any additional work is required, an additional fee would be payable subject to negotiation and agreement in advance

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£139,750	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

The cost of £139,750 is included in the draft 2014/15 budget.

Cross-Council Implications

The audit of financial statements covers all Council services

List of Background Papers

Audit Commission website identifying individual local authority fee scales.

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