

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting13th February 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Annual Audit Letter

2. Record of the Decision

Members were reminded that in 2012 the Audit Commission appointed new external auditors to the Council and that from 1st September 2012 the Council's external audit service had been provided by Mazars LLP.

A formal stage in the annual audit process was the production of the "Annual Audit Letter". The Annual Audit Letter for 2012/13 had been received and was attached to the report.

The Annual Audit Letter summarised the auditor's findings from the 2012/13 audit. In line with previous practice, a copy of the Annual Audit Letter had been sent to all Members of the Council. Mazars LLP were required to submit the Annual Audit Letter to the Audit Commission and it would appear on the Commission's website in due course.

Mazars LLP had issued an unqualified audit opinion on the Council's financial statements for 2012/13 and no material amendments were required. Mazars LLP had issued an unqualified value for money conclusion stating that it was satisfied that "the Council continues to demonstrate proper arrangements for challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness."

The report went on to say that "the Council's finance function is well-qualified, informed and capable and the overall finance governance culture is strong."

RESOLVED that the contents of the Annual Audit Letter 2012/13 be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The external auditor, Mazars LLP, is required to present its findings to the

Council's Cabinet.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 21st February 2014

Proper Officer
17 February 2014