

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....19th January 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Annual Audit Letter 2015/16

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented the Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16.

In 2012 the Audit Commission appointed Mazars LLP to act as external auditors to the Council. Following the abolition of the Audit Commission, audit appointments were made by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

A formal stage in the annual audit process was the production of the "Annual Audit Letter". The Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16 had been received and was attached to the report.

The Annual Audit Letter summarised the auditor's findings from the 2015/16 audit. In line with previous practice, a copy of the Annual Audit Letter would be sent to all Members of the Council. Mazars LLP were required to submit the Annual Audit Letter to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited and it would appear on their website in due course.

Mazars LLP had issued an unqualified audit opinion on the Council's financial statements for 2015/16 and no material amendments were required.

Mazars LLP had issued an unqualified value for money conclusion stating that it was satisfied that "the Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year".

The report recognised that the Council faced future challenges but went on to say that "the Council continues to have a strong approach in considering a range of options, regularly updating and agreeing its plans. As we have seen in recent years, the Council is exploring different service models to preserve service delivery along with financial stability."

Mazars LLP were required to report on the “Whole of Government Accounts” return completed by the Council. Their report stated that the return “was consistent with the audited statement of accounts”.

Mr Mark Kirkham (Mazars) was in attendance at the meeting and outlined the contents of the Annual Audit Letter for 2015/16.

RESOLVED that the Annual Audit Letter be noted.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The external auditor, Mazars LLP, is required to present its findings to the Council’s Cabinet Committee.

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, 27 January 2017

Proper Officer  
23 January 2017