

**Audit and Governance Committee**

17th April 2013

Report of the Director of Customer and Business Support Services

**Mazars Draft Audit Strategy Memorandum Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

**Summary**

1. This report presents the Mazars Draft Audit Strategy for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 which is attached as the annex to this report.

**Background**

2. The Plan sets out the proposed Audit Approach to be conducted by the District Auditor for the external audit of City of York Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. The Plan sets out how Mazars will:
  - Form and express an opinion on the financial statements
  - Reach a conclusion on the arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (The Value for Money Conclusion)
  - Report on the consistency of the Whole Government Accounts L-Pack with the audited financial statements
  - Certify prescribed grant claims
3. The fees for this work remain as notified to the Committee in December 2012 - £134,406 for Audit work and £20,950 for certification work.
4. The Report also sets out the proposed Audit team for 2012/13 along with the Audit Timeline setting out the timing of key phases in the audit work.

**Consultation**

5. The Plan has been consulted on with the relevant responsible officers within the Customer & Business Support Services Directorate

prior to it being reported to those members charged with governance at the council.

### **Options**

6. Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

### **Analysis**

7. Analysis of fee structures are contained in the attached reports.

### **Corporate Priorities**

8. This report contributes to the overall effectiveness of the council's governance and assurance arrangements contributing to an 'Effective Organisation'.

### **Implications**

9.

(a) **Financial** – The fees can be contained within the budget for external audit fees.

(b) **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no implications.

(c) **Equalities** - There are no implications.

(d) **Legal** - There are no implications.

(e) **Crime and Disorder** - There are no implications.

(f) **Information Technology (IT)** - There are no implications.

(g) **Property** - There are no implications.

### **Risk Management**

10. The council will fail to properly comply with legislative and best practice requirements to provide for the proper audit of the authority. Any failure to do so would be unlawful.

### **Recommendations**

11. Members are asked to:

a) consider the matters set out in the Audit Strategy Memorandum presented by the District Auditor;

Reason

*To ensure the effective deployment of scarce external audit resources to best effect.*

b) agree the Plan having first considered whether they sufficiently reflect the audit needs and interests of the council.

Reason

*To ensure that the external audit and inspection process contributes effectively to the council's system of internal control.*

**Contact Details**

**Author:**

Emma Audrain  
Trainee Accountant  
Corporate Finance  
Telephone: 01904 551170

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Ian Floyd  
Director of CBSS  
Telephone: 01904 551100

**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**Wards Affected:** Not applicable

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes**

Mazars Draft Audit Strategy Memorandum Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013