



**Report for:
INFORMATION**

Item Number: 7

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	External Audit Closing Plan
Responsible Officer	Nigel Watson, Assistant Director of Finance, Corporate Finance. extension 6403
Author	Bob Scoffham, Head of Financial Control and Reporting Tel: 020 8825 7988. E-mail: scoffhr@ealing.gov.uk
Portfolio	Finance and Performance, Cllr Yvonne Johnson
For Consideration By	Audit Committee
Date to be Considered	27 June 2013
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A
Affected Wards	All
Area Committees	N/A
Keywords/Index	Audit, Control, KPMG

Purpose of Report:

The attached KPMG report sets out in detail the work to be undertaken for the audit of the 2012/13 Council accounts and the associated costs.

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee note the strategy set out in the KPMG audit plans.

2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

This is a report for information; no decision is required.

3. Key Implications

This is the first year that KPMG have acted as the Council's appointed external auditors. Under the Code of Audit Practice, appointed auditors are required to comply with the current professional standards. Appointed auditors act quite separately from their organisation and in meeting their statutory responsibilities are required to exercise their professional judgement independently of both KPMG and the audited body. The external auditors will attend the Committee to introduce the above report.

External audit is an essential element in the process of accountability for public money and makes an important contribution to the stewardship of public

resources and the corporate governance of public services. Audit in the public sector is underpinned by three fundamental principles:

- auditors are appointed independently from the bodies being audited;
- the scope of their work covers the audit of financial statements, value for money and the conduct of public business; and
- auditors may report aspects of their work widely to the public and other key stakeholders.

4. Financial

There are no direct financial implications from this report.

5. Legal

There are no legal implications.

6. Value For Money

The audit plans set out the work to be carried out by KPMG to reach a conclusion on the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the running of its operations.

7. Risk Management

None.

8. Community Safety

Not applicable.

9. Links to Strategic Objectives

The issues outlined in this report have a particular focus on the Council's organisational improvement objective 'Becoming a high performing organisation, focused on the needs of its communities'.

10. Equalities and Community Cohesion

No Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken as the report does not affect the general duties of the Race Relations Amendment Act and the requirements of other equalities legislation.

11. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:

Not applicable

12. Property and Assets

Not applicable

13. Any other implications:

None

14. Consultation

As per attached table

15. Timetable for Implementation

None

16. Appendices

Appendix 1: KPMG audit plan for the London Borough of Ealing

17. Background Information

None

Consultation

Name of consultee	Department	Date sent to consultee	Date response received from consultee	Comments appear in report para:
Nigel Watson	Assistant Director of Corporate Finance	14.06.13	14.06.13	3

Report History

Decision type: For information	Urgency item? No		
Authorised by Cabinet member:	Date report drafted: 13.06.13	Report deadline: 18.06.13	Date report sent: 14.06.13
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries: Bob Scoffham, Head of Financial Control and Reporting, ext: 7998		