



## Corporate Governance Group

24 July 2018

### External Auditor's Report To Those Charged With Governance 2017/18

## Report of the Executive Manager – Finance and Corporate Services

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for KPMG, the Council's external auditors, to present their "*Report to those Charged with Governance*" for 2017/18. For Rushcliffe this responsibility is delegated to the Corporate Governance Group.
- 1.2 The report confirms that the Council has continued to maintain a good quality Statement of Accounts and supporting working papers. No significant issues were identified during the audit.

### 2 Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Corporate Governance Group receives the report to those Charged with Governance and determines what comments, if any, should be referred to Council with the Statement of Accounts.

### 3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To demonstrate good governance in terms of scrutinising the Council's Statement of Accounts and compliance with International Auditing Standards.

### 4 Supporting Information

- 4.1 As part of the final accounts process KPMG as the Council's appointed auditor provide a detailed report on the conduct of the audit of the final accounts alongside representations on specific matters such as the Council's financial standing and whether the transactions with the accounts are legal and unaffected by fraud. These issues are addressed in the Report to those Charged with Governance which is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 4.2 The Statement of Accounts 2017/18 will be considered as a separate agenda item at this meeting. There are no significant adjustments to report regarding the Statement of Accounts. Representatives of KPMG will be attending the meeting to present their report and answer Members' questions.
- 4.3 Members will recall that over the past few years significant improvements have been made to the year-end closedown process resulting in both a good quality Statement of Accounts and supporting working papers. This has helped the Council meet the new statutory deadline with the financial statements now having to be made available by 31 May and finalised for publication by the 31 July. This report confirms the improvement has been maintained which assists with a speedier closedown process leading to more time to quality assure documents and making the audit process more efficient for all concerned.

4.4 The headlines in the KPMG report are summarised at pages 1 and 2 of their report and confirm an unqualified audit opinion will be issued along with a positive value for money conclusion.

## 5 Risk and Uncertainties

5.1 Failure to comply with good governance procedures and professional accounting and audit practice could result in criticism from stakeholders, including both Members and the Council's external auditors.

## 6 Implications

### 6.1 Finance

There are no direct financial implications.

### 6.2 Legal

None

### 6.3 Corporate Priorities

None.

### 6.4 Other Implications

None

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<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	Statement of Accounts 2016/17
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix A – KPMG Report to those charged with governance (ISA260) 2017/18