

10 March 2020

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director of Policy and Corporate</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Paul Cook</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Audit Plan year ended 31 March 2020 &amp; Certification of Claims and Returns</b>		<b>282338</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	Not Applicable		

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises details of the draft audit plan provided by the Council's external auditors BDO and summarises the outcome of the External Auditor's Certification work on grant claims.
- 1.2 The Audit Plan for year ending 31 March 2020 summarises the auditor's assessment of the key financial statement and value for money risks facing the Council and outlines the planned audit strategy in response to those risks. It covers the work that will enable the Auditor to provide
  - An opinion on whether the Council's financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position as at the 31 March 2020
  - A conclusion on the Council's arrangement to secure economy efficiency and effectiveness
- 1.3 The Plan which is attached as an appendix to this report; also sets out the scope of materiality levels for 2019/20 audit, the associated fees, the audit team and independent assessment, and key delivery dates.
- 1.4 The outcome of the auditor's work is expected to be reported to this committee on 28 July 2020.
- 1.5 In addition, the audit certification work carried out by our auditors BDO found no material issues.

## 2. Recommended Decision

- 2.1 To review and agree the Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2020.
- 2.2 To acknowledge the unqualified opinion of Housing Poling return and the Housing Benefit Subsidy claim

## 3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require those charged with governance within the Council to review the proposed audit approach and scope for the 2019/20 audit.
- 3.2 The accounts and Audit Regulations require the Council to consider.
- 3.3 To note the unqualified opinion of the grant certification work carried out by BDO

## 4. Alternative Options

4.1 Not Applicable

## **5. Standard References**

5.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations; community safety; health and safety, risk management and Equality, Diversity or Human Rights implications as a result of this report.

## **6. Financial implications**

6.1 The audit plan sets out the external audit fees for 2019/20, which have been included in the Council's budget. There are no changes to the core audit fees or for the certification of grants however it has been noted additional costs could be incurred from the additional work as Colchester Commercial Holdings Limited will be consolidated in the Council's accounts for the first time.

6.2 For 2018/19 no separate report was needed from our auditors BDO as no material issues were identified in the certification of housing benefits subsidy or the housing capital receipts return. This resulted in an unqualified opinion and no change in fee variation.

## **Appendix**

Audit Plan for year ended 31 March 2020.