

Full Council

Date:	18 January 2018
Title:	External Audit
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Purpose of Report

1. To receive the External Auditor's Report for 2016-17 and review the Issues Arising Report.

Background

2. BDO LLP has finally completed the audit for the year ending 31 March 2017 following the presentational corrections to Page 3 of the Annual Return as agreed at the Council meeting on 14 November 2017.
3. Attached is the completed Annual Return, including the completed External auditor report and certificate, without qualification, at Page 4.
4. The report notes that the information submitted within the Council's Annual Return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.
5. A separate Issues Arising Report is also attached which does not affect BDO's opinion regarding the Annual Return. The report reiterates the presentational concerns with the Annual Return which were raised previously and have since been corrected. It goes on to request that we ensure that the Annual Return is fully and accurately prepared in future.
6. Given the negative experience this year, the Responsible Financial Officer will doubly check the year-end work of DCK Beavers Ltd. Given DCK Beavers Ltd experiences too, the situation is unlikely to be repeated. No further action is seen to be required.

Recommendation that:

- i) The 2016-17 Annual Return, including the External Auditor's Certificate and Report, be approved and accepted.*
- ii) The External Auditor's Issues Arising Report be reviewed and the proposed action noted.*