

## **Audit & Governance Committee**

Meeting to be held on 30 September 2013

Electoral Division affected: All
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### **External Audit**

#### **Lancashire County Council 2012/13 – Financial Resilience Report**

Contact for further information:

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#### **Executive Summary**

Work supporting the Value for Money (VfM) conclusion, as part of the statutory external audit, includes a review to determine if the Council has proper arrangements in place for securing financial resilience.

The report at Appendix A covers the overall findings from the assessment of the Council's arrangements for securing financial resilience, having regards to its approach to strategic financial planning, financial governance and financial control.

#### **Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to consider the main messages from the report, particularly those areas assessed as medium (amber) risk around:

- systems of internal control;
- responsiveness of the financial plan to meeting future challenges;
- reviewing current procurement arrangements and implementing arrangements to strengthen these as appropriate;
- considering whether existing arrangements provide members with adequate assurances that key risks are being properly identified, mitigated and managed.

## **Background and advice**

Attached at Appendix 'A' is the external auditor's financial resilience report for Lancashire County Council for the 2012/13 audit. The report has been produced in accordance with the Audit Commission's statutory Code of Audit Practice for Local Government bodies.

Karen Murray, Director and Len Cross, Audit Manager, will attend the meeting to present the reports and respond to questions.

## **Consultations**

The report has been agreed with the County Treasurer.

## **Implications**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

N/A

## **Risk management**

No significant risks have been identified.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

## **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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