

27 September 2012

Members
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Dear Members

Slough Borough Council Annual Audit Letter 2011/12

I am pleased to submit my Annual Audit Letter which summarises my 2011/12 audit of Slough Borough Council.

Main issues from the audit

On the 24 September 2012 I presented my Annual Governance Report (AGR) to the Council's Audit and Risk Committee and on the 27 September 2012 to full Council outlining the findings of my audit of the Council's 2011/12 financial statements. I will not replicate those findings in this letter except to refer to the following matter.

I draw attention to the fact that at the date of my audit your finance function remains reliant on interim arrangements. I acknowledge the action currently being taken by management to secure a more permanent solution that provides for stability and continuity going forward and I support these measures. However, it is for you as Members to ensure that permanent appointments to key posts are made as soon as practicable and that improved arrangements for the closedown of accounts are in place for 2012/13.

Following the Council meeting I propose to:

- issue an unqualified opinion on the Council's 2011/12 financial statements on the 27 September 2012;
- conclude that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources;
- certify completion of the audit on 27 September 2012.

Fees

In my Annual Governance Report I said that I expected to be able to complete the audit within the planned fee. The actual fee is in line with the planned fee as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1 Fees

	Scale fee	Planned fee 2011/12 (£)	Actual fee 2011/12 (£)
Audit	£309,150	£281,600	£281,600
Claims and returns		£ 46,500	£ To be confirmed*

*We will notify you of the actual fee for claims and returns in the annual report on the certification of claims and returns in October 2012 when we expect this work will be complete.

Closing remarks

I have discussed and agreed this letter with the Chief Executive and interim Director of Finance and Property. While this has been another challenging year for the Council I wish to thank the Council's officers for the positive and constructive approach they have taken to my audit. I would also particularly like to thank senior management for their support and co-operation during the audit.

Yours sincerely

Chris Westwood
District Auditor