

DEVON AUDIT PARTNERSHIP
Report of the County Treasurer

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to confirmation by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: that the Partnership Committee note the Small Bodies Return and recommend that the Chair sign the return.

Introduction

Small relevant bodies in England with an annual turnover of £6.5m or less (which includes Devon Audit Partnership) must complete an annual return in accordance with proper practices summarising their annual activities at the end of each financial year.

The return is attached and is made up of four sections:-

Section 1 – Accounting Statement for 2013/14

This is the financial summary of the Partnership for the previous year. The figures are drawn from the financial outturn for the year, but reflect previous years balance carried forward. The return also shows the “cash”, fixed assets and borrowings of the Partnership. Section 1 is prepared and signed by the Section 151 Officer of the Partnership. This statement needs to be approved by the Partnership Committee.

Section 2 – Annual Governance Statement 2013-14

This section requires that members of the Partnership confirm that the Partnership has a sound system of internal control and that the accounts are prepared correctly.

When considering this section members should draw from;

- The assurance of the Section 151 officer in certifying the accounts
- The report of the Internal Auditor (see section 4)
- The risk register that has previously been presented to the Committee
- The regular update reports provided by the Head of Partnership in respect of the financial position of the Partnership and actions taken during the year as part of the Development Plan (previously presented).

Section 3 – External Auditor certificate and opinion 2013-14

Our completed Small Bodies Return needs to be provided to our External Auditors (Grant Thornton). Grant Thornton will review the Accounting Statements (section 1) and supporting documentation and provide their External Auditor Report.

In accordance with the agreed scale of charges a fee of £2,000 will be charged for this work.

Section 4 Annual Internal Audit report 2013-14

We have instructed South West Audit Partnership to undertake an internal audit of the Partnership. Tony Brown was appointed to this task, and Tony completed his fieldwork on our systems and procedures in May.

We are pleased to report that Tony was able to confirm that all the expected internal control objectives had been achieved and has signed the return to this effect.

Tony has provided a short supporting report, highlighting areas where further improvement could be made, and we shall include these items in our Development Plan.

Mary Davis
Electoral Divisions: All
Local Government Act 1972
List of Background Papers

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Background Paper: None