



Agenda Item B2

Success criteria 1

By: Financial Advisor to The Authority

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority-
4th September 2015

Subject: **EXTERNAL AUDIT 2015-16 UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

File Ref: BG/IFCA/Audit 15/16

Summary: External Audit 2015-16 Update

1. Introduction

At the May 2015 Authority Meeting it was agreed that the Financial Advisor should approach Kent County Council's Internal Audit Team and ask if they would be prepared to undertake the external audit function for the Authority as well as the internal audit.

2. Kent County Council Internal Audit Team Response

The Internal Audit Team has stated that it is unable to act for the Authority as an External Auditor as it does not have a practising certificate and feels that there would be insufficient independence from the internal audit function.

4. External Audit Conflict in Guidance

The Financial Advisor has investigated further and has found that the letter received from the Audit Commission conflicts with other guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government published in March 2015. It would appear from this guidance that small bodies such as the Authority should continue to prepare an annual return and have it audited in the same way as it was for 2014-15.

5. Recommendations

- that the Authority allow the Financial Advisor to investigate further and report back to the authority at the next meeting.

Bev Gibbs

Financial Adviser to Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority