



Andover Town Council

To **re-appoint** Mulberry & Co for a three-year term.

Item
No.
9

Produced for: P & R Committee

By: Town Clerk

Date of Report: 4 Apr 2024

Background:

Full Council must appoint an internal auditor each year to comply with their legal obligations.

Proposals:

To appoint Mulberry & Co for twice yearly audits for 2024-25, 2025-26 & 2026-27, on the basis that Andy Beams conducts the first year audit, and one of his colleagues performs the second and third year audits.

Considerations:

Mulberry & Co have sent the following:

We are therefore writing to offer you a final opportunity to take advantage of this offer and fix your hourly internal audit rate until the end of the 2026/27 financial year audits at £70 per hour.

If you choose not to take up this option but wish to renew your arrangements with us on an annual basis, please be advised that the hourly rate for 2024/25 is increasing to £70 per hour.

As a reminder, the other benefits of being an internal audit client of Mulberry & Co include:

- Year-round internal audit support and advice from your assigned internal auditor
- Updates throughout the year of key changes to proper practices
- Ongoing financial and governance support from our dedicated Local Authority team members
- Discounted rates on the range of councillor and officer training courses (more info available via this [link](#))
- Provision of locum support *
- Provision of dedicated reviews of councils policies and procedures *

* *Additional costs apply*

Mulberry & Co has been at the leading edge of internal audit provision across the southeast for the last fifteen years and we have now expanded our portfolio to include over 230 Town and Parish Councils in 17 counties across the country, with precepts ranging from under £10,000 to over £4 million.

We were instrumental in the establishment of the Internal Audit Forum, a group recognised by NALC as ‘a pivotal partner in promoting the growth, development and understanding of internal audits to local councils’ and we play a key role in developing the forum and continuing to improve the standards of internal audit.

Our expanding team of dedicated local authority specialists have wide-ranging sector experience and can support councils in a variety of ways. We also have some exciting developments planned during 2024/25, including a new website dedicated to the local authority sector, as we aim to ensure we continue to provide the level of expert support and advice you have become accustomed to.