

2025-26 End of Year Financial Reporting Process & External Timetable

Friday, 6 February 2026

Audit and Risk Committee

Strategic Alignment - Our Corporation

Program Contact:

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Public

Approving Officer:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks Audit and Risk Committee endorsement of the External Audit terms of engagement, provisional timetable and audit plan.

The *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* require an audit opinion assuring that the Council financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, together with an opinion on financial internal controls. Galpins has been engaged as the audit firm to provide an opinion on the veracity of the Annual Financial Statements.

THAT THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS TO COUNCIL

THAT COUNCIL

1. Notes the endorsement by the Audit and Risk Committee that the External Audit Plan, as contained in Attachment A to Item 6.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 6 February 2026, is consistent with the scope of the External Audit engagement and relevant legislation and standards.
2. Approves the proposed 2025-26 End of Year Financial Reporting process and External Audit Timetable as contained in Attachment A to Item 6.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 6 February 2026.
3. Notes the External Auditor's independence declaration in relation to the audit engagement for the year ended 30 June 2026 as detailed in Attachment B to Item 6.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 6 February 2026.
4. Approves the External Audit Letter of Engagement as contained in Attachment B to Item 6.1 on the Agenda for the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 6 February 2026.
5. Authorises the certification of the financial statements, in their final form, to be signed by the Chief Executive Officer and the principal member of Council as set out in Part 4 (14) of the Regulations.

IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

City of Adelaide 2024-2028 Strategic Plan	Strategic Alignment – Our Corporation Financial sustainability is critical to achieving our vision and Council will carefully manage its revenue, costs, debts and assets.
Policy	Not as a result of this report
Consultation	Not as a result of this report
Resource	Not as a result of this report
Risk / Legal / Legislative	Regulation 10 of the <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011</i>
Opportunities	Not as a result of this report
25/26 Budget Allocation	The external Audit Fees of \$82,000 are fully budgeted for in Operating Expenditure
Proposed 26/27 Budget Allocation	Not as a result of this report
Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset	Not as a result of this report
25/26 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable)	Not as a result of this report
Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost)	Not as a result of this report
Other Funding Sources	Not as a result of this report

DISCUSSION

1. The objective and scope of the external audit and audit obligations are established by the *Local Government Act 1999* (SA) (the Act) and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011* (the Regulations). Specifically, the conduct of the annual external audit is set out in Section 129 of the Act, while the Regulations also refer to auditing standards and consideration of internal controls. The Act also requires a separate report on matters arising from the audit report be provided to the Audit and Risk Committee, as well as the principal member of Council, who must ensure that copies are provided to the other members of Council.
2. The Australian Auditing Standards recommends that the auditor sends an engagement letter documenting and confirming the auditor's acceptance of the appointment, objectives and scope, the auditor's responsibilities and the form of any reports. The Letter of Engagement received from Galpins has been included as **Attachment B**, with example reports included as **Attachment C** (Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Report) and **Attachment D** (Assurance Report on the Internal Controls) .
3. Under the Regulations, the financial statements of the Council must include a certification of financial statements, in a form determined by the Minister, signed by the Chief Executive Officer and the principal member of the Council as set out in Part 4 (14) of the Regulations.
4. There is further requirement under section 126(4) of the Act for the Audit and Risk Committee to review the annual financial statements to ensure that they fairly represent the state of affairs of the Council.
5. The Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference state that the Audit and Risk Committee shall oversee the relationship with the External Auditor, including, but not limited to:
 - 5.1. Recommending the approval of the External Audit terms of engagement.
 - 5.2. Endorsing the External Audit Timetable and the Annual External Audit Plan.
 - 5.3. Assess the external auditor's independence and objectivity.
 - 5.4. Meet with the External Auditor at least once a year, without management present.
 - 5.5. Review findings of the External Audit with the External Auditor.
 - 5.6. Review the effectiveness of the External Audit and oversee actions to follow up on matters raised by the External Auditor.
6. A provisional timetable has been prepared, setting out the key dates to ensure end of year reporting is completed in a timely and efficient manner.
7. Galpins is scheduled to carry out their interim internal control and financial statement testing during the period 27 April to 16 May 2026.
8. The final audit concentrating on Council's Financial Statements will be carried out during the period 10 August to 28 August 2026.
9. The purpose of the External Audit is primarily to enable the External Auditor to express an opinion on the veracity of the Annual Financial Statements and financial internal controls. It is standard practice of the External Auditor to plan and organise the External Audit independently of management. A copy of Galpins' proposed External Audit Plan is included as **Attachment A**.
10. The Audit and Risk Committee's Terms of Reference require that the Committee meet the External Auditor at least once a year, without management being present, to discuss their merit and any issues arising from the External Audit. In line with the proposed audit timetable, the September 2026 meeting which will receive the Auditor's Report is considered an appropriate forum for this meeting to occur.
11. The External Auditors are required to provide a report on matters arising from the audit including management's comments on those issues, where applicable. This report will be provided to the Audit and Risk Committee for consideration. The Audit and Risk Committee's Terms of Reference also require the Committee to review any Letter of Representation that the External Auditors may wish to be signed by the Chief Executive Officer, on Council's behalf. Subject to any outstanding issues in relation to the External Audit being resolved on a timely basis, it is proposed to sign the Annual Financial Statements together with the required Letter of Representation following the Audit and Risk Committee meeting in September 2026.
12. The final report for presentation to Council of the Financial Statements is planned for the meeting of Council scheduled in September 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Annual External Audit Plan

Attachment B – Letter of Engagement – Financial Statements and Internal Controls

Attachment C – Example Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Report

Attachment D – Example Assurance Report on the Internal Controls

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