

Audit & Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 31 May 2018

Report Title: Grant Thornton Progress and Update Report

Senior Officer: Jan Willis, Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. The progress and update report from Grant Thornton for the year ended 31st March 2017 and a summary report relating to the formal objection to the accounts are provided as Appendices to this report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the Committee receive and comment on the attached reports.

3. Reasons for Recommendation/s

- 3.1. The first report sets out the work that the Council's Auditors, Grant Thornton will be carrying out in their statutory audit on the Council's financial statements and arrangements for securing value for money.
- 3.2. The second report sets out the basis of the objection to the accounts and the response provided by Grant Thornton.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. Not applicable

5. Background

- 5.1. Grant Thornton has been appointed as the Council's independent external auditors by the Audit Commission. Their annual work programme is set in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission and includes nationally prescribed and locally determined work.

- 5.2. The report provides members of the Committee with an update on progress of the external audit; it also includes a summary of emerging national issues and developments relevant to the Council.
- 5.3. Grant Thornton completed an interim audit in March and will commence their final accounts audit work on 1st June 2018; progress on their work to date is set out on pages 4 - 6 of the report.
- 5.4. The report also provides an update on progress to date on the Value for Money conclusion.
- 5.5. Grant Thornton will be attending the meeting to answer any questions raised by members on the report.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

- 6.1.1. There are no legal implications identified.

6.2. Finance Implications

- 6.2.1. The level of fees for the audit work specified by the external auditors will be met from within the existing revenue budget.

6.3. Policy Implications

- 6.3.1. There are no policy implications identified.

6.4. Equality Implications

- 6.4.1. There are no equality implications identified.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

- 6.5.1. There are no human resources implications identified.

6.6. Risk Management Implications

- 6.6.1. There is a risk that the Council will be unaware of progress against the audit plan and emerging issues and developments which may be of relevance if this report is not considered.

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

- 6.7.1. There are no direct implications for rural communities.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People

- 6.8.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

7. Ward Members Affected

7.1. Not applicable.

8. Access to Information

8.1. The full reports provided by Grant Thornton are appended to this covering report.

9. Contact Information

9.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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