

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 24th September 2015
Report of: Chief Operating Officer
Subject/Title: Grant Thornton – Audit Findings Report 2014/15
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peter Groves

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Audit Findings Report will be presented to the Committee by Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors. The report, appended to this paper summarises the findings from the 2014/15 Audit. It identifies the key issues that have been considered by Grant Thornton before issuing their opinion on the Council's financial statements and its arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members receive and comment on the Audit Findings Report for 2014/15.
- 2.2 That Members approve the letter of representation to be signed by the Chief Operating Officer.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The appointed auditors are required to report to those charged with governance. The Audit Findings Report presents the findings, conclusions and recommendations from audit work undertaken relating to the financial year 2014/15.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Implications for Rural Communities

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Chief Operating Officer)

8.1 As covered in the report.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Head of Legal Services)

9.1 There are no specific legal implications with regard to this report.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Statement of Accounts to be produced in line with recommended accounting practices.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 The auditors are responsible for giving an opinion on:

- whether the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the authority and its expenditure and income for the year in question;
- whether they have been prepared properly in accordance with relevant legislation and applicable accounting standards;
- whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. This is known as the value for money (VFM) conclusion.

11.2 The findings in relation to these areas are set out in the Audit Findings Report attached as Appendix A.

11.3 As the Council's appointed auditors, representatives of Grant Thornton will attend the Committee to report their findings directly to Members.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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