

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 1st June 2017
Report of: Director of Finance and Procurement
Subject/Title: Grant Thornton ~ Progress and Update Report
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Bates

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 The progress and update report from Grant Thornton for the year ended 31st March 2017 and the planned fee letter for 2017/18 are provided as Appendices to this report.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 That members receive and comment on the report and the planned fee letter.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The 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.

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 Financial Implications

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

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 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.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 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.

10.2 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.

10.3 Grant Thornton completed an interim audit in March and will commence their final accounts audit work on 5th June 2017; progress on their work to date is set out on pages 4 - 6 of the report.

10.4 The report also provides an update on progress to date on the Value for Money conclusion.

10.5 Grant Thornton will be attending the meeting to answer any questions raised by members on the report.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Grant Thornton Progress and Update Report for 2016/17

Appendix 2 – Audit Fee Letter for 2017/18