

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 26th June 2014
Report of: Chief Operating Officer
Subject/Title: Grant Thornton - Emerging Issues Briefing
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peter Raynes (Finance)

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report provides the Audit and Governance Committee with a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be of relevance to the Council. The summary is provided by the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, and sets out areas of potential interest across local government and the wider public sector.
- 1.2 From June 2014 the briefing is also shared with the Council's Corporate Leadership team and portfolio holders. This helps to provide the Audit and Governance Committee with some assurance that the issues are both known to the Council and are reflected in its work programmes where appropriate.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That members note the Emerging Issues Briefing report.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The appointed auditors are required to report to those charged with governance.

4.0 Background

- 4.1 The report provides an update from Grant Thornton on national emerging issues and developments which may be of relevance to Cheshire East.
- 4.2 Emerging issues briefings are provided to the Committee on a regular basis. Going forward these reports will be considered by the Corporate Leadership Board and the relevant Portfolio Holders. This will strengthen awareness and ensure that the issues and their implications are fully considered by the relevant section of the Council.
- 4.3 Grant Thornton has also provided a range of useful documents including:
- A Guide to Local Authority Accounting;
 - Decluttering the Accounts – Top Tips;
 - Approval of the Minimum Revenue Provision; and
 - Midland Local Government Audit Committee Member Network Programme of Events.

These documents will be circulated to members of this Committee by email.

4.4 The Audit Manager from Grant Thornton will be attending the meeting to answer any questions raised by members on this report.

5.0 Wards Affected

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Local Ward Members

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 Policy Implications including – Carbon Reduction, Health

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no specific finance implications.

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 There are no specific legal issues associated with this report.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 There is a risk that the Council will be unaware of emerging issues and developments which may be of relevance if this report is not considered.

11.0 Access to Information

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

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Appendix 1: Emerging Issues Briefing for Cheshire East Council