

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

24th APRIL 2014

GRANT THORNTON – AUDIT FEE LETTER 2014/15

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering – Executive Director Finance and Resources
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	No
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non–Key Decision

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To present Members with the Audit Fee letter for 2014/15 from the Councils External Auditors Grant Thornton and to approve the level of fee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the fee be agreed.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The 2014/15 budget assumes the level of fee as set in the attached letter. This is similar to the level of the 2013/14 charge.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 None as a direct result of this report. The Council has a legally binding contract with Grant Thornton to provide the External Audit service for at least the next 4 years.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 External Auditors have a duty to carry out all work necessary to meet their statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice.
- 3.4 The areas of work include
- Audit of Financial Statements
 - Value for Money Conclusion
 - Work on Whole Of Government Accounts
- 3.5 In addition the fee for the review and validation of the grant claims has been reduced from £17k to £13k.

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Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

3.6 There are no implications arising out of this report.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 As part of all audit work the auditors undertake a risk assessment to ensure that adequate controls are in place within the Council so reliance can be placed on internal systems.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Grant Thornton Audit Fee Letter

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Individual internal audit reports.

7. KEY

N/a

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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