

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE & STANDARDS COMMITTEE 23TH APRIL 2015

GRANT THORNTON PROGRESS UPDATE – March 2015

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	-
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering – Exec 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 update members on the progress report from Grant Thornton.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to note the Progress Report.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Council has a statutory responsibility to comply with financial regulations.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 The report from Grant Thornton details their progress in delivering their responsibilities as external auditors. The report outlines that as at March 2015 the 2014/2015 Accounts Audit Plan would be completed in line with the agreed timetable. With regards to the interim accounts audit, a number of visits have already been undertaken to review work progressing. The initial risk assessment has been completed by Grant Thornton with a further review completed after year end.

AUDIT, GOVERNANCE & STANDARDS COMMITTEE **23TH APRIL 2015**

3.4 In addition to the update on the account progress for the Council the report includes a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant and a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues which Members may wish to consider. These include:

- Independent Commission into Local Government Finance
- Help into Work and DCLG Build to rent scheme
- Local Government Governance Review
- Stronger futures : development of the LGPS
- Accounting changes re Business Rate Appeals
- Earlier Closure of the Accounts

3.5 There are no issues that are not being addressed by officers to ensure the Council meets its statutory financial obligations.

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 – March 2015 Grant Thornton Report

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. KEY

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jayne Pickering
E Mail: j.pickering@bromsgrove&redditch.gov.uk

Tel: 01527-881207