

**AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

2nd JULY 2015

GRANT THORNTON – AUDIT FEE LETTER 2015/16

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 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 2015/16 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 2015/16 budget assumes the level of fee as set in the attached letter. This is a reduction of £20k on the fee for 2014/15 as a result of procurement exercises run by the Commission across both the Local Government and Health sectors.

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

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- 3.5 In addition the fee for the review and validation of the grant claims has been reduced from £13k to £11k.

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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