

AUDIT STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

2nd FEBRUARY 2017

GRANT THORNTON ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2015/16 AND ACTION PLAN

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr. John Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering – Exec Director Finance and Resources
Wards Affected	All Wards
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To present to Members the Grant Thornton Annual Audit Letter which summarises the key findings arising from the work carried out at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to note the Audit Letter as included on Appendix 1.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Grant Thornton fee for the 2014/15 audit is £68k. Any proposed additional work by Grant Thornton that results in an extra cost, has to be agreed with the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) and the Council.

Legal Implications

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

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.3 The Annual Audit Letter 2015/16 from Grant Thornton details their findings and recommendations as a result of the work undertaken as part of the final accounts for 2015/16. This includes; Financial Statements and Value for Money Judgement.
- 3.4 Unqualified opinions were given for the accounts, however, as members are aware a qualified opinion was given on the Value for Money Judgement. This was due to the Auditors assessment that there

AUDIT STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

2nd FEBRUARY 2017

were still improvements to be made around budget development and financial monitoring reporting. The actions that have been put in place for 2016/17, as detailed in the appendix to the Audit Letter aim to address the issues raised.

- 3.5 Officers will continue to work with both Internal and External Audit to ensure the recommendations are implemented as reported.

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, 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 - Annual Audit Letter from Grant Thornton

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Jayne Pickering
E Mail: j.pickering@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881207