

AUDIT, STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

1st February 2018

GRANT THORNTON ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2016/17

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Fisher
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	None specific
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 2017.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Grant Thornton fee for the 2016/17 statutory audit fee is £58k.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The statutory audit was completed in accordance with the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice which reflects the requirements of the Local audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Service/Operational Issues

- 3.3 The Council received an unqualified opinion on the Financial Statements on 21st September 2017, within the deadline of 30th September.
- 3.4 The Audit Letter refers to an improvement in both the timeliness and quality of the draft financial statements compared with previous years. However, it identifies a need for further improvement to meet the new statutory deadline to complete the Financial Statements by 31st May 2018 (previously 30th

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June) and the audit by 31st July 2018. It also refers to the need to finalise resources within the Finance Team. This has been addressed through the appointment a new Financial Services Manager and an external arrangement with officers who have provided support over the last 2 years.

- 3.4 In terms of the value for money conclusion the letter Auditors were satisfied that the Council had put in place proper arrangements to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources with the exception of financial reporting and financial sustainability. Officers are continuing to work to address the issues raised.

Customer/ Equalities and Diversity

- 3.8 None as a direct result 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 – Grant Thornton Annual Audit Letter 2016/17

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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