

## **REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **AUDIT GOVERNANCE & STANDARDS & COMMITTEE 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2019**

#### **GRANT THORNTON – CERTIFICATION WORK REPORT 2017/18**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Tom Baker Price
Portfolio Holder Consulted	N/A
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 present Members with the Grant Certification Letter for 2017/18 from the Councils External Auditors Grant Thornton.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to note the letter 2017/18**

#### **3. KEY ISSUES**

##### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The base fee for the grant work is £18k. Any further work undertaken as a result of additional testing is chargeable. No additional fee was charged for 2017/18.

##### **Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Grant Thornton have a statutory responsibility to certify the claims submitted by the Council.

##### **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. This includes certification of grant claims.
- 3.4 The auditors have certified the Housing Benefit Claim for 2017/18 relating to over £21.7m of expenditure. There were a number of issues that required further testing. It is worth noting that there is no level of materiality when auditing the housing benefit claim and therefore the errors can be minor in value but require further testing. The auditors have reported in their letter that they have seen improvements in the workbook production and a reduction in the number of errors made following training and support that has been given to the teams.

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#### **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

3.5 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 Certification Letter 2017/18

#### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Individual audit reports.

#### **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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