

**AUDIT, STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE**

31 October 2019

GRANT THORNTON ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2018/19

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor David Thain
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
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 2019.

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 2018/19 statutory audit fee was £57,629. This variation from original fee was driven by audit variations as per the letter.

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 for 2018/19.

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- 3.4 The Audit Letter refers details Grant Thornton's findings as a result of the work undertaken as part of the final accounts for 2018/19 and reflects the Audit opinion reported to this committee.
- 3.5 In terms of the value for money conclusion the Auditors issued a Section 24 notice. This reflects the findings that the council is likely to exhaust its reserves by the end of March 2021. Further information is detailed in the audit letter. Officers continue to work to address the Councils financial challenges.

Customer/ Equalities and Diversity

- 3.6 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.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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