

# **REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **AUDIT, GOVERNANCE & STANDARDS COMMITTEE 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020**

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### **GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PLAN 2019/20**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Daid Thain
Portfolio Holder Consulted	N/A
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering ( Exec Director)
Wards Affected	<b>All</b>
Ward Councillor Consulted	None specific

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 To present to members the Grant Thornton Audit Plan 2019/20. A copy of this document is attached to this report as Appendix A..

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **Members are asked to note and agree the 2019/20 Audit Opinion Plan**

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

##### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The fee associated with the External Audit Opinion and audit of accounting statements and consideration of the Councils arrangements for securing economy, effectiveness and efficiency is £54k this is a an increase of £10k on the previous year initial fee but is less than the actual charged for 2018/19.

##### **Legal Implications**

- 3.2 The Council has a statutory responsibility to formally prepare accounts in compliance with national guidelines and ensure these are audited by an audited body.

##### **Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 Attached at Appendix A is the 2019/20 Audit Plan . The Plan sets out work that the Grant Thornton propose to undertake in relation to the Audit of the financial accounts for 2019/20 and any risks that have will require additional review and consideration. The Audit required is more comprehensive than in previous years as the Financial Reporting Council has made changes to the way Auditors have to undertake their work.

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- 3.4 The Audit will include an understanding of the organisational operations together with issues that may impact on the Council in the future. This assessment results in the External Audit consideration of the risks associated with the accounts and the Appendix details the level of risk allocated to the services we provide.
- 3.5 The work by the Grant Thornton will enable a robust opinion to be made across all the internal control and accounting arrangements that the Council has in place.
- 3.6 The Auditors will also make an assessment of the Councils arrangements to secure value for money to include systems and processes to manage financial risks and improving efficiency. This will include an assessment of the recommendations in relation to the reporting of financial information and monitoring to members and the delivery of savings and additional income.

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

- 3.7 None as a direct result of this report

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The Financial Services risk register includes the preparation of the accounts and the controls in place to ensure the accounts are treated in compliance with accounting standards. Risk management arrangements in place across the organisation ensure that risks are addressed and mitigated.

## **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Annual Audit Plan 2019/20

### **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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