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**GRANT THORNTON AUDIT FINDINGS 2012/13**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Roger Hollingworth
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
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 enable Members to consider the Audit Findings Report as attached at Appendix 1 for 2012/13 from Grant Thornton.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **That Cabinet considers and notes the Audit Findings Report 2012/13**
- 2.2 **That Cabinet recommend to Council the approval of the draft letter of representation as included in the Audit Findings report.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 None other than those included in this report.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require that the Council complies with statutory accounting legislation and changes.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 The Statement of Accounts were approved by the Executive Director of Finance and Resources in June 2013 in accordance with revised legislation on approval of the accounts which included formal approval of the Accounts by Council by 30<sup>th</sup> September each year.
- 3.4 During the External Audit of the Accounts for 2012/13 it was recognised by Grant Thornton that the accounts were well prepared and working papers appropriate. There was one significant change to the accounts that impacted on several notes. This related to the accounting for a notional capital receipt for the Council's share of receipts from the sale of former council houses. Grant Thornton agreed

with officers that it would be proper to reverse these entries and refer to the transaction in a separate note to the accounts.

- 3.5 There are 2 recommendations proposed by the Grant Thornton that have been agreed by officers. These are :

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Management response</b>	<b>Implementation date &amp; responsibility</b>
Ensure that the weaknesses highlighted on pages 16 and 17 in relation to IT security are addressed	M	Rcommendations1 ,3 and 4 have been implemented by August 2013	December 2013
The matters raised as residual risks in the VFM conclusion will be reported more fully in our detailed Financial resilience report, a draft of which has been issued to officers for comment. Members should monitor progress against these detailed recommendations.	H	Officers will consider and respond to this detailed report. The report and the action plan will be taken to the November cabinet and the Audit Board will track the implementation of these recommendations.	November 2013

- 3.6 In addition to the work on the accounts preparation the Grant Thornton assess their opinion on value for money. Their conclusion is that they are satisfied that the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness during 2012/13. A draft detailed financial resilience report is being discussed with officers and will be presented to Members during November 2013.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.7 None as a direct result of this report.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The corporate risk register includes the preparation of the accounts and the controls in place to ensure the accounts are treated in compliance with accounting standards.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Grant Thornton – Audit Findings Report 2012/13

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

Name: Jayne Pickering – Exec Director Finance and Resources

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

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