

GRANT THORNTON PROGRESS UPDATE - MARCH 2015

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Michael Webb
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
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 update members on the progress of External Audit for the plan to March 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Board is asked to note updates as included on Appendix 1.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Council has a statutory responsibility to comply with financial regulations.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 The report from Grant Thornton details their progress in delivering their responsibilities as external auditors. The report outlines that as at March 2015 the 2014/2015 Accounts Audit Plan would be completed in line with the agreed timetable. With regards to the interim accounts audit, a number of visits have already been undertaken to review work progressing. The initial risk assessment has been completed by Grant Thornton with a further review completed after year end.
- 3.4 In addition to the update on the account progress for the Council the report includes a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant and a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues which Members may wish to consider. These include:

- Independent Commission into Local Government Finance

- Inspection into the Governance of Rotherham Council DCLG Build to rent scheme
- Local Government Governance Review
- Stronger futures : development of the LGPS
- Accounting changes re Business Rate Appeals and Calculation of Holiday Pay

With reference to the emerging issues, officers will be raising the issues at the next Parish Council meeting on 10th December to ensure parishes are aware of the new arrangements which are to be in place from 2017.

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 – Progress Report Grant Thornton Report

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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