

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**AUDIT BOARD**

**19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015**

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**GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PLAN 2014/15**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Michael Webb
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 present to members the Grant Thornton Audit Plan 2014/15. 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 2014/15 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 £75k. This includes £11k in relation to the audit of the Housing Benefit Grant Claim as reported to this meeting.

**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 2014/15 Audit Plan . The Plan sets out work that the Grant Thornton propose to undertake in relation to the Audit of the financial accounts for 2014/15 and any risks that have will require additional review and consideration.
- 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 There are a number of specific areas that will be analysed in greater detail when the accounts are being audited these include:
- Valuation of the Council House
  - Payroll procedures during the period of the post being vacant ( the new postholder will start in early April)
  - Valuation of the Councils share in the ownership of Parkside
  - Implementation of the new general ledger
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 A number of recommendations have been proposed by Grant Thornton and these, together with the management responses will be presented to the next meeting of this Board.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.9 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 2014/15

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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