

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT, STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 16TH JULY 2015

GRANT THORNTON UPDATE – JUNE 2015

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	-
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 in relation to the accounts for 2014/15 from Grant Thornton together with a number of general issues and developments that may impact on the Council in the future.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to note the progress and updates as included on Appendix 1.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.

Legal Implications

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

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 The report attached at Appendix 1 presents the current position on progress from Grant Thornton in relation to the audit of the 2014/15 Statement of Accounts. The main issue that has been raised is the slight delay in the production of the Statement of Accounts and the reasons for this delay. As can be seen in the detail of the report a number of unusual circumstances contributed to the timing of the submission these included:

- Implementation of a new financial ledger
- Restructure of the finance team, turnover of staff and difficulties in recruiting to vacant senior posts
- Introduction of a new chart of accounts and changes in coding issues

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- 3.4 The accounts were submitted on Monday 6th July with the deadline of Wednesday 30th June. Officers are committed to give complete support to the External Auditors when they undertake their Audit at the end of this month to ensure that the delay does not impact on their deadline of 30th September.
- 3.5 The report also informs Members on the Emerging Issues and Developments that are relevant to the Council and may impact in the future.
- 3.6 These include
- Building a successful Local Authority Trading Company
 - Welfare Reform Review
 - English Devolution
 - 2014/15 Accounts Hot Issues
- 3.7 There are no issues that are not being addressed by officers to ensure the Council meets its statutory financial obligations.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.8 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. There is to be a “lessons learned” undertaken to ensure that controls are in place to support the production of the final accounts for 2015/16.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – June 2015 Grant Thornton Report

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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