

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT, STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 24TH MARCH 2016

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PLAN 2015/16

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|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Relevant Portfolio Holder | Cllr Geoff Denaro |
| Portfolio Holder Consulted | Yes |
| Relevant Head of Service | Jayne Pickering (Exec Director) |
| Wards Affected | All |
| Ward Councillor Consulted | None specific |

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To present to members the Grant Thornton Audit Plan 2015/16. 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 2015/16 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 £49k. This includes £9k in relation to the audit of the Housing Benefit Grant Claim as reported to this meeting. This is a reduction of over £25k from the 2014/15 fee.

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 2015/16 Audit Plan . The Plan sets out work that the Grant Thornton propose to undertake in relation to the Audit of the financial accounts for 2015/16 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

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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:
- Valuations of Council Assets
 - Monitoring of the S11 recommendations
 - Potential impact of Devolution
- 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.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.8 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 2015/16

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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