

Bromsgrove District Council

As part of the audit of our Final Accounts 2014/15, our auditors, Grant Thornton, issued a number of recommendations as per s11 Audit Commission Act 1998. This is our response:

Update as at 6th September 2016

Recommendation	Action	Owner	Deadline
3 The Council should put in place robust arrangements to ensure that the budget preparation processes are based on sound assumptions which enable forecast to be made of budget out-turn, including realistic assessments of demand factors, service and demographic changes as well as sound assumptions around turnover and vacancy rates.	Robust arrangements for budget preparation were put in place during the 2016/17 budget setting process and this work is being continued during the 2017/18 budget process.	Senior Business Support Accounting Technicians	complete
		Business Support Accounting Technicians	complete
4 The Council should ensure that budget monitoring processes are timely to enable an accurate forecast to be made in-year of the likely year-end out-turn and action to be taken, where necessary, to address budget variances.	New Financial Planning module to be implemented, giving managers more control and flexibility of their budgets. Quarterly monitoring statements are sent out to budget-holders within 5 working days of period end. Projections and explanations are required within a week of draft Committee reporting. Compilation of Monitoring reports for Members. Large variances to budget to be addressed with Head of Service prior to Committee with details of cause and plans to mitigate any overspends		30/06/2016
		Senior Business Support Accounting Technician	
		Business Support Accounting Technicians and budget-holders	ongoing
		Senior Business Support Accounting Technician	ongoing
		Exec Director of Finance	ongoing