

# AUDIT STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

8<sup>th</sup> December 2016

## GRANT THORNTON ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2015/16

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering – Exec Director Finance and Resources
Wards Affected	All Wards
Non-Key Decision	

### 1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 To present to Members the Grant Thornton Annual Audit Letter which summarises the key findings arising from the work carried out at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2016.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **The Board is asked to note the Audit Letter as included on Appendix 1.**

### 3. KEY ISSUES

#### Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Grant Thornton fee for the 2015/16 audit fee is £49k.

#### Legal Implications

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

#### Service/Operational Implications

- 3.3 The Annual Audit Letter 2015/16 from Grant Thornton details their findings and recommendations as a result of the work undertaken as part of the final accounts for 2015/16. This includes; Financial Statements, Value for Money Judgement and Grant Claims.
- 3.4 Unqualified opinions were given for the accounts and a qualified opinion on the Value for Money Judgement.
- 3.5 Whilst improvements were made in the preparation and production of the accounts the Auditors made 3 recommendations to be implemented during 2016/17- 2017/18 these are:

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- Continue to improve the Statement of Accounts production to ensure we meet the new deadline for 2018
  - Improve budget reporting in particular the impact of decisions on reserves and balances
  - Improve in year budget monitoring when reporting to members
- 3.7 Officers have put in place arrangements to address the above recommendations.

## **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, 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 - Annual Audit Letter from Grant Thornton 2015/16

## **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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