

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT, STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 15th MARCH 2018

GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PLAN 2017/18

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Brian Cooper
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 2017/18. 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 2017/18 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. In addition fees of £13k have been agreed in relation to the audit of the Housing Benefit Grant Claim.

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 2017/18 Audit Plan . The Plan sets out work that the Grant Thornton propose to undertake in relation to the Audit of the financial accounts for 2017/18 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

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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 recommendations shown within the Action Plan. These will be reviewed by Grant Thornton to ensure progress is being made against each area.
- 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. This will include an assessment of the recommendations in relation to the reporting of financial information and monitoring to members and the delivery of savings and additional income.

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 2017/18

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