

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**AUDIT STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE    10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

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**GRANT THORNTON – Sector report and 2019/20 audit progress update**

<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder</b>	Councillor Geoff Denaro
<b>Portfolio Holder Consulted</b>	-
<b>Relevant Head of Service</b>	Jayne Pickering – Exec Director Finance and Resources
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Ward Councillor(s) Consulted</b>	No
<b>Key Decision / Non-Key Decision</b>	Non–Key Decision

**1.    SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

To present a sector update report from Grant Thornton relating to emerging public sector national issues and 2019/20 audit progress to date.

**2.    RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1    The Committee is asked to note updates as included in Appendix 1.

**3.    KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

3.1    There are no financial implications arising out 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 updates Members on the progress on the 2019/20 accounts work undertaken by Grant Thornton since the last Committee meeting. The 2019/20 Statement of Accounts was due to be published by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. Unfortunately due to the resources available and other working commitments this deadline has been missed with officers working to complete the accounts by mid September. Therefore the Audit will commence later in September. Officers are committed to delivering the formal accounts sign off and approval at the next meeting of this Committee in late November to meet the statutory deadline of

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30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Members will be sent the draft accounts as soon as they are available.

- 3.4 In addition the appendix includes updates and links to Grant Thornton Publications in relation to issues that are relevant to Local Government at the current time. These mainly relate to the impact of Covid and how Councils can address the associated risks of financial implications and service delivery.
- 3.5 Officers are continuing to work with the auditors to ensure the Council meets its statutory financial obligations

#### **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.5 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.

#### **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Grant Thornton Report

#### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

#### **7. KEY**

N/A

#### **AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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