

**EXTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT PLAN FOR 2015/16**

Report of the: Director of Finance & Resources  
Contact: Kathryn Beldon  
Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No  
If yes, reason urgent decision required:  
Annexes/Appendices (attached): Annexe 1 - The Audit Plan Year Ended 31 March 2016

Other available papers (not attached):

**REPORT SUMMARY**

**This report sets out the approach being taken by the Council’s external auditors, Grant Thornton, to the audit of the accounts for 2015/16.**

**RECOMMENDATION (S)**

- (1) That the Committee notes the External Audit Plan Year Ended 31 March 2016 as endorsed by Strategy & Resources Committee on 5 April 2016.**

*Notes*

**1 Implications for the Council’s Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy**

- 1.1 This report supports the Council’s Key Priority of “Managing Resources”.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Grant Thornton are the Council’s independent external auditors appointed by the Audit Commission. The main contacts are Elizabeth Olive (Associate Director) and Ade O Oyerinde (Audit Manager).
- 2.2 The auditors have had discussions with finance staff, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance & Resources and have prepared an audit plan for the 2015/16 accounts (Annexe 1).

### **3 Proposals**

- 3.1 Officers are satisfied that the Audit Plan addresses the key financial and governance issues.
- 3.2 Grant Thornton's audit manager will be in attendance to introduce this item and answer Members' questions.

### **4 Financial and Manpower Implications**

- 4.1 Audit fees are estimated at £53,684 as set out in the Audit Plan.
- 4.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

### **5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)**

- 5.1 Grant Thornton has confirmed that the Audit Plan has been prepared in line with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General in 2015.
- 5.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** None for the purposes of this report.

### **6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications**

- 6.1 There are no implications for the purposes of this report.

### **7 Partnerships**

- 7.1 There are no implications for the purposes of this report.

### **8 Risk Assessment**

- 8.1 The audit of the Council's financial statements comprises a key element of the Council's governance arrangements.

### **9 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note the Audit Plan as endorsed by Strategy & Resources Committee on 5 April 2016.

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: N/A**