

**EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AUGUST 2016**

<u>Report of the:</u>	Director of Finance and Resources
<u>Contact:</u>	Kathryn Beldon
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	<u>Annexe 1</u> - External Audit Progress Report
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	None Stated

**REPORT SUMMARY**

**This report provides an update of work being carried out by the Council's External Auditor and identifies emerging issues for the Committee to note.**

**RECOMMENDATION (S)**

**(1) That the Committee receives the External Audit Progress Report.**

*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 Managing Resources.

**2 Background**

2.1 Grant Thornton provides the Council's External Audit work.

**3 Proposals**

3.1 This report provides an update of the work being carried out by External Audit (attached as Annexe 1). It also identifies any emerging issues and developments that the Committee should be aware of.

3.2 Grant Thornton will attend the committee meeting to introduce this item and answer any questions Members may have.

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

- 4.1 The 2015/16 audit carried out by Grant Thornton provided the Council with an unqualified opinion on the accounts.
- 4.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** The work as planned by our External Auditors is in accordance with the level of work allowed for in the budget.

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

- 5.1 Grant Thornton has confirmed that its work will be prepared in the context of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audit Bodies issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- 5.2 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** The work of external audit is a key part of the controls in place to ensure that the Council is doing the right thing in the right way at the right time.

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

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

#### **7 Partnerships**

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

#### **8 Risk Assessment**

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

#### **9 Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note the progress made.

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: All**