

EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – AUDIT PLAN FOR 2016/17

<u>Report of the:</u>	Director of Finance and Resources
<u>Contact:</u>	Kathryn Beldon
<u>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</u>	No
<u>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</u>	
<u>Annexes/Appendices (attached):</u>	<u>Annexe 1</u> - The Audit Plan Year Ended 31 March 2017
<u>Other available papers (not attached):</u>	None

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 2016/17.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

- (1) That the Committee endorses the External Audit Plan Year Ended 31 March 2017.**

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 are the Council's current independent external auditors appointment by the Audit Commission.
- 2.2 The auditors have prepared an audit plan for the 2016/17 accounts as shown in Annexe 1.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Officers are satisfied that the Audit Plan addresses the key financial and governance issues.

4 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 4.1 Total audit fees are estimated at £54,581 (excluding VAT) as set out in the Audit Plan.
- 4.2 The Finance Team have plans in place to ensure that the Council's accounts are closed by the required deadlines.
- 4.3 The Finance Team will have regular contact with Grant Thornton during the process.
- 4.4 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** *The Council has budgeted for the audit fee and has a plan in place to achieve its financial year end and closing of accounts goals and targets.*

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:** *There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. External Audit reports certification and opinions, form a key part of the Council's governance arrangements.*

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 comprises a key element of the Council's governance arrangements.

9 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to endorse the Audit Plan.

WARD(S) AFFECTED: N/A