

AUDIT BOARD
17 July 2019

REPORT FROM THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR

1. Summary

The External Auditor has completed the audit of the Council's 2018/19 Accounts and now presents her "Audit Findings" report to Members.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Members welcome the External Auditor's intention to issue an unqualified opinion on both the Financial Statements and the Value for Money Conclusion [as set out in Appendix to this report].

2.2 That Members approve the Letter of Representation attached at Appendix B to this report.

2.3 That Members note the External Auditor's proposed audit fee for 2019/20 [Appendix C to this report].

3. Background and Discussion

3.1 The 2018/19 Statement of Accounts was completed by the 31 May deadline and submitted to the External Auditor for review. The External Auditor has completed the audit of the accounts and now presents the Audit Findings Report (Appendix A) to the Board. The Board should consider the External Auditor's report before approving for publication, the 2018/1918 accounts (referred to elsewhere on the agenda).

3.2 The Audit Manager (Elizabeth Jackson) will present the Audit Findings Report to the Board. The External Auditor proposes an unqualified opinion on the accounts and an unqualified value for money conclusion.

3.3 Members should note that the audit process went well and the relationship between the External Auditor and finance staff has remained positive.

3.4 The External Auditor has noted the findings in the Audit Findings Report. Limited changes were made to the draft statement as part of the audit process however, no changes were made that change the outturn position for revenue and capital budgets presented to Cabinet in July 2019. There have been no changes to the level of usable reserves.

3.5 Appendix B is the letter of Representation that the Strategic Director (Internal Services) is required to sign. It confirms that the Council has complied with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, provided the External Auditor

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with access to all relevant information and other sundry matters. The External Auditor requires the Board to approve the letter.

3.6 The Board is also asked to note the proposed audit fee for the 2018/19 audit of the accounts, as per Appendix C.

4. Relationship to the Corporate Plan

The completion, approval and audit of the annual statement of accounts by the statutory deadline are key requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. This is one way that the Council demonstrates that it is a well-managed organisation making the best use of its resources, which is part of the Council Performing Strongly theme.

5. Financial, legal, staffing and other administrative implications and risk assessments

Financial Implications	None specifically
Legal Implications	None
Staffing Implications	None
Administrative Implications	None
Risk Assessment	None

6. Appendices

Appendix A – Grant Thornton UK - Audit Findings report 2018/19

Appendix B – Grant Thornton - Letter of Representation

Appendix C – GT Planned audit fee letter 2019/20

BACKGROUND PAPERS

<u>Documents consulted</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File Ref</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Section and Directorate</u>	<u>Exempt Information Category</u>
			Tim Sams 343148	Financial Services/ Internal Services	N/A