

Report title	External Audit Progress Report and Update	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Louise Miles Resources	
Accountable director	Claire Nye, Director of Finance	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee(s)	Emma Bland	Finance Business Partner
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Report to be/has been considered by	None	

Recommendation for noting:

The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to note:

1. The progress report and update provided by Grant Thornton.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Audit and Risk Committee on progress made by Grant Thornton in delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external auditors.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Annually at the March Committee, Grant Thornton customarily report on progress made against their Audit Plan and provide an update on technical matters, sector issues and developments. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The statement, and the forthcoming audit of those statements by the external auditors, is an important element of the accountability and transparency of the Council's finances.
[EB/01032019/X]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 The Secretary of State makes the Accounts and Audit Regulations in exercise of powers conferred by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the 2018-2019 Statement of Accounts be produced in accordance with proper practice.
- 4.2 This is exemplified by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting which is published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These regulations also require that the accounts are approved and published by 31 July 2019.
[TS/28022019/R]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

8.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 8.1 There are no implications for the Council's property portfolio arising from this report.

9.0 Health and Wellbeing implications

9.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 There are no relevant preceding reports.

11.0 Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 – Audit Progress Report and Sector Update