

Audit and Risk Committee

16 September 2019

Report title	Annual External Audit Letter	
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	

Recommendations for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The Annual Audit Letter provided by Grant Thornton.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Audit and Risk Committee on the key findings arising from the work carried out at the Council, its subsidiaries (the group) and the West Midlands Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2019.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Annually Grant Thornton provide a commentary on the results of their work to the Council and external stakeholders, and to highlight issues that they wish to draw to the attention of the public. A copy of the Annual Audit Letter is attached at Appendix A.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The audit of the accounts and the Value for Money conclusion by the external auditors, are important elements of the accountability and transparency of the Council's finances.
[EB/04092019/M]

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 2019-2020 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 CIPFA. These regulations also require that the accounts are approved by 31 May 2019 and published by 31 July 2019.
[TC/04092019/K]

5.0 Equalities implications

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

6.0 Climate change and environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no climate change 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 – Annual Audit Letter from Grant Thornton