

Audit and Risk Committee

22 June 2020

Report title External Audit Plan Addendum

Cabinet member with lead responsibility Councillor Louise Miles
Cabinet Member for Resources

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Originating service Strategic Finance

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Report to be/has been considered by None.

Recommendation for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The External Audit Plan Addendum update provided by Grant Thornton.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update to the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of the Council as reported in their Audit Plan dated 23 March 2020.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In addition to the audit risks communicated to those charged with governance in their Audit Plan on 23 March 2020, recent events have led Grant Thornton to update their planning risk assessment and reconsider their audit and value for money (VfM) approach to reflect the unprecedented global response to the Covid-19 pandemic. A copy of the update is attached at Appendix A.

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/11062020/F]

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 and published by 31 July 2020.

[TS/11062020/R]]

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 and 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 Schedule of background papers

9.1 There are no relevant preceding reports.

10.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

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

11.0 COVID Implications

11.1 COVID implications are covered in the update attached.

12.0 Appendices

12.1 Appendix A: External Audit Plan Addendum