

Report title	External Audit Progress Report and Update	
Accountable director	Claire Nye, Director of Finance	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
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Report to be/has been considered by	Not applicable.	

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, 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.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 sets out Grant Thornton's progress in delivering its responsibilities as the Council's external auditors.

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.
- 3.2 Audit fees are discussed in Appendix 1.

[EB/25022021/U]

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 2020-2021 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 30 September 2021.

[TS/25022021/Q]

5.0 Equalities implications

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

6.0 All other Implications

- 6.1 There are no other implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7.0 Schedule of background papers

- 7.1 None.

8.0 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Audit Progress Report and Sector Update.