

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Audit and Risk Committee

6 December 2021

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| 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 | 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 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 of Accounts, and the audit of the accounts by the external auditors, is an important element of the accountability and transparency of the Council's finances.

[EB/25112021/P]

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.

[JB/25112021/E]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 While there are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendation in this report, the local audit process is a key part of the preparation and sign-off of the Statement of Accounts, and thereby will aid the Council in its ability to meet its equality objectives.

6.0 All other implications

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

7.0 Schedule of background papers

- 7.1 There are no relevant preceding reports.

8.0 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – City of Wolverhampton Council Audit Progress Report and Sector Update