



Audit & Governance Committee
2 December 2013

Grant Thornton 2012-13 Annual Audit Letter and 2013-14 Annual Fee Letter

Purpose of the report:

The Council's external auditors are presenting their Annual Audit Letter ('the Letter') in respect of the audit year 2012/13 (Annex 1). The Letter has been shared with all Members of the Council.

The Council's external auditors will also present their planned audit fee for 2013/14 (Annex 2).

Introduction:

1. Grant Thornton are required to produce an Annual Audit Letter summarising the key findings arising from the work carried out at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2013.
2. Grant Thornton are also required, on an annual basis, to produce a Fee Letter demonstrating the proposed fee for the upcoming audit.

2012-13 Annual Audit Letter

3. The Annual Audit Letter is intended to communicate key messages to the Council and external stakeholders, including members of the public. We reported the detailed findings from our audit work to those charged with governance in the Audit Findings Report on 2 September 2013. The letter has been agreed with the Chief Finance Officer and Deputy Director for Business Services.

2013-14 Annual Fee Letter

4. The Annual Fee Letter proposes the fee to be charged for the 2013/14 audit. This fee is set by the Audit Commission and remains the same as for the 2012/13 audit.

Conclusions:

5. An unqualified opinion was provided in relation to the 2012/13 financial statements and Whole of Government Accounts submission. An unqualified conclusion in respect of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources was also provided.
6. The audit fee for 2013/14 is set by the Audit Commission and remains the same as for the 2012/13 audit.

Financial and value for money implications

7. There are no direct financial or value for money implications arising from these reports.

Equalities Implications

8. There are no direct equality implications arising from these reports.

Risk Management Implications

9. There are no direct risk management implications arising from these reports.

Implications for the Council's Priorities or Community Strategy

10. There are no direct implications for the Council's priorities or Community Strategy arising from these reports.

Recommendations:

11. The Committee is asked to:
 - (a) Note the contents of the 2012/13 Annual Audit Letter (Annex 1)
 - (b) Note the proposed 2013/14 audit fee (Annex 2)

Next steps:

None

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Sources/background papers: Audit Findings Report 2012/13 and Financial Resilience Report 2012/13, Grant Thornton