



Audit & Governance Committee
26 September 2016

External Audit Performance Report 2015/16

Purpose of the report:

This report provides the Audit & Governance Committee with details of Grant Thornton's performance during the last 12 months against the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) previously agreed and approved by this Committee on 7 December 2015.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Audit & Governance Committee considers the contents of the report.

Introduction:

1. As part of the performance management framework between the Council and Grant Thornton, a set of key performance indicators were developed from December 2014. This was as the result of a previous request by the Audit and Governance Committee. These indicators are approved by this Committee in advance, monitored throughout the year and formally reported in the September meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee each year.
2. The report in Annex 1 details Grant Thornton's performance against the ten agreed indicators covering the following areas:
 - response time
 - achievement of planned input
 - reporting arrangements
 - quality assurance
3. In previous years there have been seven agreed indicators but for 2015/16 three further indicators were added, which built on feedback from the 14/15 audit and reflected changes in the approach to undertaking work on the Value for Money conclusion.
4. The new indicators relate to:

- timeliness of audit information requests from third parties;
- agreeing areas of focus of our 2015/16 Value for Money work; and
- communication of audit progress throughout the year through monthly updates, in addition to the existing weekly meetings in June and July

Performance against key performance indicators:

5. The report confirms that Grant Thornton has met all KPI targets as agreed with the Council in late 2015.

Conclusions:**Financial and value for money implications**

6. There are no direct value for money implications of this report.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

7. There are no direct equalities implications of this report.

Risk Management Implications

8. There are no direct risk management implications of this report.

Next steps:

9. The Committee should consider the process for agreeing KPIs for the next 12 months and which indicators would be especially useful, including any new ones.
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