



Audit & Governance Committee
27 September 2018

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2017/18

Purpose of the report:

The Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, are presenting their Annual Audit Letter in respect of the audit year 2017/18 (Annex 1). This report summarises the key messages and findings arising from the work carried out at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Recommendations:

The Audit & Governance Committee is asked to note the contents of the Annual Audit Letter (Annex 1)

Introduction:

1. The Annual Audit Letter summarises the key findings arising from the work carried out by Grant Thornton for the year ended 31 March 2018.
2. The Annual Audit Letter is intended to communicate key messages to the Council and external stakeholders, including members of the public.
3. A more detailed report outlining the detailed findings from the audit work completed on the financial statements, to those charged with governance was included in the Audit Findings Report which was shared with this Committee on 26 July 2018.

Conclusions:

4. The Annual Audit Letter of the external auditors is attached at Annex 1 for consideration by this Committee.
5. The report confirms that in respect of the audit of the Surrey County Council 2017/18 financial statements:
 - Grant Thornton issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's accounts and the group accounts on 31 July 2018, in line with the national deadline.
 - The Council made the accounts available for audit in line with the agreed timetable, and provided a good set of working papers to support them.

6. The report explains that in respect of the 2017/18 value for money conclusion:
 - Grant Thornton have completed their work in respect of Children's Services.
 - are yet to complete their work in respect of the Council's financial health. This work is underway.
7. Until the conclusion of this work, Grant Thornton are unable to issue a value for money conclusion for 2017/18. Once completed, the conclusions from this work will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.
8. The report also confirms that Grant Thornton have:
 - issued their audit findings report to the Audit and Governance Committee in relation to the Pension Fund Accounts.
 - reviewed the Council's Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report.
 - reviewed the Council's Whole of Governance Account submission and issued an assurance statement, which did not identify any issues for the group auditor to consider.

Financial and value for money implications

9. There are no direct financial and value for money implications of this report.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

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

Risk Management Implications

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

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