

GRANT THORNTON UPDATE

Performance and Governance Committee - 8 January 2013

Report of the: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

Status: For Information

Key Decision: No

This report supports the Key Aim of effective management of Council resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Ramsay

Head of Service Group Manager Financial Services – Adrian Rowbotham

Recommendation to Performance and Governance Committee: That the report be noted.

Introduction

- 1 Andy Mack, from Grant Thornton, would like the opportunity to present the following items to Members:
 - The effects of the change from the Audit Commission to Grant Thornton as the Council's external auditors.
 - Planned audit fee for 2012/13 (Appendix A).
 - The Grant Thornton document: Towards a tipping point? (Appendix B).

Grant Thornton

- 2 Grant Thornton were appointed as the Council's external auditor to replace the Audit Commission with effect from 1 November 2012. This followed a procurement exercise to outsource the work of the Commission's in-house audit practice into five year regional contracts.

Planned audit fee for 2012/13

- 3 The Council's scale fee for 2012/13 is £56,641. Members will be pleased to see that this is a reduction of 40% compared to 2011/12 which was the intention as previously explained by Andy Mack to Members of this Committee.

Towards a tipping point?

- 4 This document contains a summary of the financial health reviews carried out on 24 English local authorities, between May and September 2012, which were audited by Grant Thornton.

5 Grant Thornton will in future carry out this type of review on this Council.

Key Implications

Financial

6 There are no financial implications.

Community Impact and Outcomes

7 There are no community impacts or outcomes.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

8 There are no legal or human rights implications.

Equality Impacts

9

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	No	
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

Risk Assessment Statement

10 The work carried out by the external auditors provides a thorough examination of the finances of the Council. Any significant issues found are reported to Members.

Appendices

Appendix A – Grant Thornton letter – Planned audit fee for 2012/13

Appendix B – Grant Thornton document – Towards a

tipping point?

Contact Officer(s):

Adrian Rowbotham Ext.7153

Helen Martin Ext.7483

Dr. Pav Ramewal

Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources