

GRANT THORNTON UPDATE

Audit Committee - 11 June 2013

Report of the: Chief Executive Designate

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 Audit 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 Audit Plan for year ended 31 March 2013 (Appendix A).
 - Planned audit fee for 2013/14 (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.

The Audit Plan for year ended 31 March 2013

- 3 This document explains the approach that Grant Thornton will be taking as they complete the external audit of 2012/13. The interim audit has already taken place and no significant issues were identified.
- 4 Officers have recently provided Grant Thornton with a comprehensive Value for Money self assessment document which will help them form their Value for Money conclusion.

Planned audit fee for 2013/14

- 5 The Council's scale fee for 2013/14 is £56,641. Members will be pleased to see that this is the same fee as 2012/13 and a reduction of 40% compared to 2011/12.

Key Implications

Financial

- 6 The financial implications are included elsewhere in the report.

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

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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 document – The Audit Plan for Sevenoaks District Council – Year ended 31 March 2013

Appendix B – Grant Thornton letter – Planned audit fee for 2013/14

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**Dr. Pav Ramewal
Chief Executive Designate**