

Item No. 11.	Classification: Open	Date: 14 July 2016	Meeting Name: Audit, governance and standards committee
Report title:		Grant Thornton – audit, governance and standards committee update July 2016 and audit fee letter 2016-17	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee note Grant Thornton's audit, governance and standards committee update, as attached (Appendix 1).
2. That the audit and governance committee note Grant Thornton's audit fee letter for 2016-17 work, as attached (Appendix 2)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The purpose of the audit update report is to brief the audit, governance and standards committee on work currently being planned or undertaken by Grant Thornton and to highlight emerging national issues and developments which may be of interest to members of the committee.
4. The audit fee letter sets out the planned audit fees for both the council and the pension fund for 2016-17.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The attached report at Appendix 1 provides an update on 2015-16 audit work, including the 2015-16 accounts audit plan, work on the interim and final accounts audit, and the Value for Money conclusion. It also draws members' attention to a number of key local government accounting and other issues and highlights publications from Grant Thornton and CIPFA.
6. Grant Thornton has confirmed its planned fees levels in a letter, as attached at Appendix 2. The scale fee letter for 2016-17 has been set by the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA), the organisation responsible for managing the current external audit contracts until they expire, at the same level as the 2015-16 fees. Planned fees are therefore £237,296 for the council and £21,000 for the pension fund, and the indicative grant certification fee is £23,018. However, the letter notes that the adoption of new measurement requirements for the Highways Network Asset will require additional work and result in additional fees. Where authorities can provide the information required, fees are expected to increase by £5,000 to £10,000. The letter also sets out the scope and timing of work for 2016-17.

Policy implications

7. This report and the accompanying update report and audit fee letter are not considered to have direct policy implications.

Community impact statement

8. This report and the accompanying update report and audit fee letter are not considered to have direct impact on local people and communities.

Resource implications

9. This report and the accompanying update report and audit fee letter are not considered to have direct impact on resource implications.

Consultation

10. Consultation has not been undertaken.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

11. None required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Grant Thornton Audit, Governance and Standards Committee Update July 2016
Appendix 2	Grant Thornton audit fee letter 13 April 2016

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Duncan Whitfield, Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	
Report Author	Jo Anson, Head of Financial and Information Governance	
Version	Final	
Dated	24 June 2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	24 June 2016	