
External Auditors - Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

Committee considering report: Governance and Ethics Committee on 26 November 2018

Portfolio Member: Councillor Anthony Chadley

Date Portfolio Member agreed report: 01 November 2018

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Forward Plan Ref: GE3661

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Governance and Ethics Committee with a report from Grant Thornton on progress in delivering their responsibilities as our new external auditors and a sector update.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the Audit Progress Report and Sector Update.

3. Implications

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|-----|-------------------------|------------|
| 3.1 | Financial: | N/A |
| 3.2 | Policy: | N/A |
| 3.3 | Personnel: | N/A |
| 3.4 | Legal: | N/A |
| 3.5 | Risk Management: | N/A |
| 3.6 | Property: | N/A |
| 3.7 | Other: | N/A |

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 None

Executive Summary

- 4.2 The report outlines the way forward: for the Financial Statements Audit,
- Grant Thornton have started planning for the 18/19 financial statements audit and will issue a detailed audit plan setting out their approach to the audit.
 - They will communicate with KPMG and arrange to see their working papers on the 2017/18 audit.
 - The plan is to commence the interim audit in early 2019.
- 4.3 The way forward: in Value for Money,
- Grant Thornton need to satisfy themselves that 'the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources'.
 - They will make their initial risk assessment to determine their approach in December 2018 and report this to Governance and Ethics Committee in their Audit Plan early 2019.
- 4.4 The way forward: in other areas,
- Grant Thornton will meet with Finance Officers frequently, planning quarterly liaison meetings and will continue to be in discussions with finance staff regarding emerging developments.
 - They will meet with our Chief Executive to discuss the Council's strategic priorities and plans going forward.
 - A range of workshops, along with network events for members and publications to support the Council will be provided.
- 5.4 The report also includes a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to West Berkshire Council. Along with a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues which the Committee may wish to consider.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Members are requested to note the Audit Progress Report and Sector Update from Grant Thornton.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – Audit Progress Report and Sector Update.