



## AGENDA ITEM: 8

**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE:**  
**28<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

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**Report of: Borough Treasurer**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)**

**Contact: Marc Taylor (Extn. 5092)**  
**(E-mail: Marc.Taylor@westlancs.gov.uk)**

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**SUBJECT: ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER**

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Wards affected: Borough Wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To consider the Grant Thornton Annual Audit Letter for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Letter be considered and that any questions on its contents be raised with the External Auditors at the meeting.

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### **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 Each year our External Auditors produce an Annual Audit Letter. A copy of this year's Letter has been included as the Appendix to this report. The Letter provides an overall summary of the auditor's assessment of the Council, based on all of the work that they have undertaken over the last year.

### **4.0 CURRENT ISSUES**

4.1 The Annual Audit Letter confirms that:

- An unqualified opinion has been given on the accounts, which means that they provide a true and fair view of the Council's income and expenditure for the year and its financial position as at 31 March 2013
- the Council has proper arrangements in place for securing economy,

efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

- the Council has proper arrangements in place for securing its financial resilience in the current difficult financial climate

4.2 The Annual Audit Letter also confirms that audit fee charged for the year was £57,428, which was in line with the original audit plan. This represents a 40% reduction in the charge that had been made under the previous arrangements.

4.3 Our external auditors will be attending the meeting and will be able to answer any questions that Members may have on the Letter.

## **5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

5.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The report has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

6.1 The Annual Audit Letter is an integral part of the Council's internal control framework and provides assurance to Members that the Council is operating effectively.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendix**

Appendix – Annual Audit Letter