



AGENDA ITEM: 5

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

23 September 2014

Report of: Borough Treasurer

Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (People and Places)

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SUBJECT: GRANT THORNTON AUDIT FINDINGS

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To receive reports from our External Auditors setting out their findings on the audit of the accounts and value for money.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the reports be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 A report on the Statement of Accounts for 2013-14 was considered by this Committee at its meeting in June, and subsequently a link to this statement was sent to all Members by e-mail.

3.2 During the Summer a team of auditors from Grant Thornton has spent several weeks auditing the accounts and reviewing the Statement. The External Auditors are now required to present their findings for this audit to Members.

4.0 AUDIT FINDINGS

- 4.1 At the time of writing this report Grant Thornton had almost completed their audit of the accounts, and their findings to date are set out in the reports in the appendices. This shows that it is expected that the Council will receive an unqualified opinion on its accounts and that no significant problems or issues have been identified. The appendices also provide a positive assessment of the Council's financial performance and financial position.
- 4.2 Representatives from Grant Thornton will attend the Committee meeting to present their findings and answer any questions that Members may have on the accounts.

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 audit of the accounts is part of the overall control framework that is designed to ensure that the Council properly accounts for the use of its assets and resources.

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.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – The Audit Findings for West Lancashire Borough Council (TO FOLLOW)
Appendix 2 – Report on Value for Money for West Lancashire Borough Council