

11 April 2023

15

**External Audit – Audit Planning Report for the Year Ending 31
March 2023**

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Lead Portfolio – Finance (Leader of the Council), All

Purpose: For Information

1. Aim

- 1.1 To provide Audit Committee with the indicative external audit planning report for 2022/23.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report provides the Audit Committee with details of our External Auditors, Grant Thornton, indicative audit plan for the financial year ending 31 March 2023. It details the indicative planned audit strategy driven by an assessment of the key issues and significant risks that could affect the accounts, details of materiality, value for money arrangements and audit fees.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Audit Committee are recommended to review and note the report.

4. Report detail – know

- 4.1 Audit arrangements require Grant Thornton (our external auditors) to formally provide an audit plan for the audit of the financial statements, consider whether there are any risks of significant weakness for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness and set out the proposed fees for the audit.
- 4.2 Following the elongated audit process for 2021/22 where the audit opinion was provided to the Council and Audit Committee in March 2023 there is a delay in preparing a detailed audit planning report to be presented to the Council and Audit Committee. Therefore, the audit planning report is to follow.

5. Financial information

- 5.1 There are none directly related to this report.

6. Reducing Inequalities

- 6.1 Effective value for money arrangements ensure a focus on delivery of Corporate Plan objectives, a key driver of which is reducing inequalities.

7. Decide

- 7.1 As this report is for information only there are no matters within this report for decision.

8. Respond

- 8.1 Audit Committee may wish to comment on the report.

9. Review

- 9.1 Any significant weaknesses identified that Grant Thornton consider require additional testing will be reported within the final Annual Audit Plan.

Background papers

Code of Audit Practice

Author

Robert Page

Senior Technical Accounting Manager

☎ 650317

✉ Robert.Page@walsall.gov.uk