

Audit Committee – 22 November 2021

External Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

Ward(s): All

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

Purpose: For Information

1. Aim

- 1.1 For Grant Thornton to provide Audit Committee with a report on progress in delivering their responsibilities as the council's external auditors and a Sector update.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report provide the council's external auditor's progress report on the audit of the 2020/21 financial statements and value for money arrangements, both of which are substantially complete. The report provides a Sector update on matters of interest to the council and Audit Committee

3. Recommendations:

- 3.1 Audit Committee are requested to note the report.

4. Report detail – know

- 4.1 Grant Thornton are the council's independent external auditors. Outcomes from their work will assist the council in maintaining strong governance arrangements.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 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 This report is for noting by Audit Committee.

8. Respond

- 8.1 Audit Committee may wish to comment on report.

9. Review

- 9.1 Audit Committee will receive the Annual Auditors report on value for money at their next meeting.

Background papers

Code of Audit Practice

Author:

Vicky Buckley

Head of Finance and Assurance

☎ 01922 652326

✉ vicky.buckley@walsall.gov.uk