

Audit Committee	
Meeting Date	17 April 2023
Report Title	Grant Thornton Audit Plan 2022/23
SMT Lead	Lisa Fillery, Director of Resources
Head of Service	Claire Stanbury, Head of Finance and Procurement
Lead Officer	Claire Stanbury, Head of Finance and Procurement
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the Annual Audit Plan presented by Grant Thornton, subject to confirmation of the audit timetable as detailed in the body of the report (Appendix I). 2. consider the requirement to amend the date of the autumn audit committee once the audit is complete.

1. Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents Grant Thornton's Annual Audit Plan covering their audit of the Council's 2022/23 accounts and the process for assessing the arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources.
- 1.2 The Audit Plan outlines Grant Thornton's proposed audit approach, the timing of audit work, and the significant audit risks identified to date. The current timetable proposes the audit to be carried out from October to December 2023 which is outside of the statutory deadline for the publication of the audited accounts and so management have challenged this timing with a view to bringing the audit forward in the year. Grant Thornton have been advised that the council will expect them to negotiate with DLUHC to agree an extension to the statutory audit deadline if a revised timetable is not delivered. It is unacceptable for the council to be put the position of missing that deadline.
- 1.3 Audit committee are advised to request that Grant Thornton request a formal extension to the deadline for the publication of the audited of the statement of accounts if they are unable to accommodate our audit within the statutory timescales.
- 1.4 Audit committee are advised that the requirement for the publication of the draft accounts for 2022/23 has returned to the pre-covid deadline of 31 May. This is a reduction of two months from last year's deadline of 31 July which will increase the pressure on the finance team to deliver the final accounts.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council is currently preparing the Annual Accounts for 2022/23. The Audit Committee is the body charged with governance for approving the Annual Accounts. The Audit Committee schedule of meetings for the next civic year are

yet to be agreed, however the committee will be presented with the Council's 2022/23 Annual Accounts and a report from Grant Thornton, as the Council's appointed external auditors, on the Accounts. Grant Thornton's report will give an opinion on the Accounts and the Council's Value for Money arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

2.2 The purpose of this Audit Report is to report to the Audit Committee how Grant Thornton plan to audit the 2022/23 accounts.

2.3 The audit fees for 2021/22 and 2022/23 are detailed on page 21 of audit plan.

3. Proposals

3.1 The Auditor's Audit Plan for the year ending 31 March 2023 is attached as Appendix I.

3.2 The Audit Committee is asked to note the Audit Plan for 2022/23.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 There are no alternative options.

5. Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 The Director of Resources was invited to comment on the Audit Plan.

6. Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Good financial management is key to supporting the Corporate Plan objectives.
Financial, Resource and Property	The Audit Plan details the audit fees for 2021/22 and 2022/23.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	The production of the financial statements is a legal requirement under the Accounts and Audit regulations. The current timing of the external audit will not meet the statutory deadline for the publication of the audited accounts and this committee is advised to request that Grant Thornton apply for an extension to the deadline from DLUHC.
Crime and Disorder	No direct issues
Environment and Climate/ Ecological Emergency	No direct issues
Health and Wellbeing	No direct issues
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	No direct issues
Risk Management and Health and Safety	No direct issues

Issue	Implications
Equality and Diversity	No direct issues
Privacy and Data Protection	No direct issues

7. Appendices

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

7.1.1 Appendix I: Auditor's Audit Plan for the year ending 31 March 2023.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Detailed working papers are held in the Finance and Procurement Department.