

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Report subject	External Audit - Audit Progress Report 2020/21 & Sector Update
Meeting date	28 October 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Grant Thornton, as the Council's appointed External Auditors, have produced a report which provides an update to Audit & Governance Committee on their progress to date in delivering their responsibilities.</p> <p>The report states that the proposed target completion date for their fieldwork is 30th November 2021 and they aim to give their opinion on the financial statements by the end of December 2021. Reasons (and context) for the delay in issuing the opinion against the target date of 30 September 2021 are included in the report.</p> <p>The report also includes a summary of the 'What can be learned from Public Interest Reports?' publication by Grant Thornton, along with a link to the full publication.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Audit & Governance Committee notes the External Auditor's progress to date in delivering their responsibilities and the sector update provided.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>To update Audit & Governance Committee on the External Auditor's progress to date in delivering their responsibilities.</p> <p>To advise Audit & Governance Committee of emerging national issues and developments that maybe relevant to the Council.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Drew Mellor, Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant, Chief Executive
Report Authors	<p>Nigel Stannard Head of Audit & Management Assurance ☎01202 128784 ✉ nigel.stannard@bcpcouncil.gov.uk</p>
Wards	Council-wide

Classification	For Information
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Background

1. During 2017, Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) awarded contracts for audit for a five-year period beginning on 1 April 2018. This year is the third year of that contract, Grant Thornton are the appointed External Auditors for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.
2. Grant Thornton, as the Council's External Auditors, have a responsibility to provide regular updates to those charged with governance (Audit & Governance Committee) on progress made in delivering their responsibilities.

External Audit Progress Report

Progress at October 2021

3. The attached report (Appendix A) details progress made by Grant Thornton in delivering their responsibilities as external auditors.
4. The report states that the proposed target completion date for their fieldwork is 30th November 2021 and they aim to give their opinion on the financial statements by the end of December 2021. Reasons (and context) for the delay in issuing the opinion against the target date of 30 September 2021 are included in the report.

Sector Update

5. The report also includes a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to the Council (as a local authority) and this update contains 'What can be learned from Public Interest Reports?' report by Grant Thornton, along with a link to the full publication.

Options Appraisal

6. An options appraisal is not applicable for this report.

Summary of financial implications

7. The proposed 2020/21 BCP Council Audit fee is £200,500 with an additional £37,000 for the Audit of subsidiary charities (total value £237,500).

Summary of legal implications

8. There are no direct legal implications from this report.

Summary of human resources implications

9. There are no direct human resources implications from this report.

Summary of sustainability impact

10. There are no sustainability impact implications from this report.

Summary of public health implications

11. There are public health implications from this report.

Summary of equality implications

12. There are no direct equality implications from this report.

Summary of risk assessment

13. There are no risk implications from this information report.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A – Grant Thornton – BCP Audit Progress Report and Sector Update