

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Report subject	External Auditor – Audit Plan 2024/25
Meeting date	29 May 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>The attached report at Appendix A sets out the work that the Council's External Auditor, Grant Thornton, plans to undertake for the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts in respect of 2024/25.</p> <p>The External Auditor plans to give an opinion on whether the accounts give a true and fair view and whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.</p>
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that Audit & Governance Committee notes the Grant Thornton External Audit Plan 2024/2025 for the Council.
Reason for recommendations	To advise the Audit & Governance Committee of the External Audit annual plan for the Council for the audit of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Mike Cox, Portfolio Holder for Finance
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

Background

1. During 2017, Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) awarded contracts for audit appointments for a five-year period beginning on 1 April 2018. Grant Thornton are the appointed External Auditor for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.
2. The External Auditor performs the audit of the financial statements in line with the Code of Practice issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) and International Standards on Auditing (UK).

3. The External Auditor gives an opinion on whether the accounts give a true and fair view and whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

External Auditor – Audit Plan 2024/25

4. The attached report at Appendix A (BCP Council Audit Plan) sets out the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts, in respect of 2024/25, for those charged with governance.
5. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or the Audit & Governance Committee of their responsibilities. It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the conduct of its business, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for.
6. The contents of the report include:
 - Key developments impacting our audit approach
 - Introduction & headlines
 - Identified risks
 - Group audit
 - Our approach to materiality
 - IT audit strategy
 - Value for money arrangements
 - Logistics
 - Fees and related matters
 - Independence considerations
 - Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance
 - Delivering audit quality
 - Appendices

Options Appraisal

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

Summary of financial implications

8. The fee for the External Audit programme of work is set out in Appendix A (section 11 Fees and related matters).
9. The scale fee set out in the PSAA contract for the 2024/25 BCP Council audit is £469,068. By comparison, in 2023/24 the scale fee set by PSAA was £433,289 and the actual fee charged for the audit was £489,979.

Summary of legal implications

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

Summary of human resources implications

11. There are no direct human resource implications from this report

Summary of sustainability impact

12. There are no direct sustainability impact implications from this report

Summary of public health implications

13. There are no direct public health implications from this report.

Summary of equality implications

14. There are no direct equalities implications from this report.

Summary of risk assessment

15. There are no direct risk implications from this report.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix A - Grant Thornton, The Audit Plan for BCP Council, Year ending 31 March 2025