

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

20 January 2020

Report of the Director of Finance and Transformation

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 GRANT THORNTON 2019/20 AUDIT PLAN AND AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AND SECTOR UPDATE

This report introduces two papers from our external auditor. The two papers are the 2019/20 Audit Plan and Audit Progress Report and Sector Update.

1.1 2019/20 Audit Plan

1.1.1 Our external auditor is required to prepare an Audit Plan setting out the proposed approach to the audit of the Council's financial statements. The paper identifies a number of risks which the external auditor will consider as part of the audit, none of which are specific to this Council, but applicable to local authorities more generally; and no issues have arisen from their interim work to date which I need to draw to your attention. On the VFM conclusion work, the area of focus will be the audited body takes properly informed decisions and deploys resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The paper can be found at **[Annex 1]**.

1.2 Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

1.2.1 This paper provides the Audit Committee with a report on progress in delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external auditor. The paper also includes a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to local authorities; and includes a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues which the Committee may wish to consider. The paper can be found at **[Annex 2]**.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 As set out in the documents.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 The proposed fee has increased from that originally set by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA) from £35,248 to £42,748 following changes to the

scope and depth of audit work required. The proposed fee is subject to PSAA agreement.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 As set out in the documents.

Background papers:

contact: Paul Worden

Nil

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance and Transformation