

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**22 July 2024**

**Report of the Director of Finance and Transformation**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Information**

**1 GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AND SECTOR UPDATE**

**A progress report and update on emerging national issues and developments from our external auditor, Grant Thornton.**

**1.1 Introduction**

1.1.1 Attached at **[Annex 1]** is a progress report and sector update from Grant Thornton covering information on a number of areas including:

- Progress in delivering external auditor including progress at June 2024.
- Audit Deliverables in respect of the 2023/24 Accounts and Grants Audits.
- Sector Updates including:
  - Audit backstop update
  - LGA Improvement and Assurance Framework
  - State of Local Elections
  - Productivity Plans
  - Housing and Homelessness
  - Regeneration plans to 2030
  - Simpler Recycling

**1.2 Legal Implications**

1.2.1 As set out in the paper.

### **1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.3.1 The fee for the audit of the 2023/24 Accounts is £147,460 compared to £61,099 for the 2022/23 audit, an increase of £86,361 or 141%. This is as a result of the newly tendered contract through PSAA.

### **1.4 Risk Assessment**

1.4.1 As set out in the paper.

Background papers:

contact: Paul Worden

Nil

Sharon Shelton  
Director of Finance and Transformation