Audit Committee

21 July 2025

Part 1 - Public

Matters for Information

Cabinet Member	Martin Coffin – Cabinet Member for Finance, Waste and Technical Services
Responsible Officer	Sharon Shelton – Director of Finance and Transformation
Report Author	Paul Worden – Chief Financial Services Officer

Grant Thornton Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

1.1 This report gives an update on the Audit being undertaken on the Financial Statements for 2024/25 and updates emerging national issues and developments identified by our External Auditor, Grant Thornton.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.

2.2 An annual audit opinion informs the efficiency, effectiveness and economic value of the council.

3 Introduction and Background

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

- Local audit reform
- New members and 30th anniversary of Nolan
- Challenges faced by local authorities implementing IFRS 16
- Reorganisation update
- Homelessness
- Making decisions
- Housing Targets

- Complaints Data
- Climate Change
- Audit Committee Resources

4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

4.1 The fee for the audit of the 2024/25 Accounts is £163,828 compared to £147,460 for the 2023/24 audit. The increase is because of the new contract for Public Sector Audit.

5 Risk Assessment

5.1 As set out in the paper.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 As set out in the paper.

7 Consultation and Communications

7.1 None

8 Implementation

8.1 None

9 Cross Cutting Issues

9.1 Equalities and Diversity

9.1.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Background Papers	None
Annexes	Annex 1 – Grant Thornton Progress update