

## Audit Committee

26 January 2026

### Part 1 - Public

#### Matters for Information



Cabinet Member	Cllr Martin Coffin – Cabinet Member for Finance, Waste and Technical Services
Responsible Officer	Paul Worden – Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer)
Report Author	Paul Worden – Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer)

#### Grant Thornton Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

##### 1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 A progress report and update on emerging national issues and developments from 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 independent audit of the Council's finances and delivery of service helps to ensure efficiency is achieved.

##### 3 Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Attached at **[Annex 1]** is a progress report and sector update from Grant Thornton covering information on a number of areas including:
- Progress on the 2025/26 Audit of the authorities' financial statements.
  - Audit deliverables planned for the 2025/26 financial statements
  - Public Sector updates concerning
    - 1) After the Backstop
    - 2) Ministerial changes concerning Local Government
    - 3) Autumn Budget 2025/26
    - 4) Local Government support from the LGA
    - 5) Fair Funding Review
    - 6) Latest developments in Local Government Reorganisation
    - 7) Preventative Spending
    - 8) The Covid 19 enquiry

- 9) The Renter Rights Act
- 10) Proposed new duty of candour and standards regime
- 11) Business cases for net zero

- Healthy environments for resilient towns
- Webinar for Audit Committee Members and
- Audit Committee Resources available for Member

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

- 4.1 The fee for the audit of the 2025/26 Accounts is £158,740 compared to £163,828 for the 2024/25 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