

Classification: Public
Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Finance & Audit Committee
Date: 11 June 2019
Reporting officer: Emily McKeown, Grant Thornton
Subject: Audit Fee Letter 2019-20

Purpose and summary of report:

To inform Members of the external audit fee set for 2019-20.

Recommendation:

1. The Finance and Audit Committee is invited to note the external audit fee for 2019-20.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 established the arrangements for local auditor appointments, applicable to audits of the accounts of principal local government bodies from 2018-19 onwards.
- 1.2 In July 2016 Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) was selected by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to take on the role of Appointing Person for principal local government and police bodies. After consideration by the Finance & Audit Committee Members, Full Council resolved unanimously to accept the invitation to opt into the appointing persons arrangements made by PSAA for the appointment of external auditors. Following a procurement process managed by PSAA, the council accepted the appointment of Grant Thornton (UK) LLP as the auditor of Gravesham Borough Council for five years from 1 April 2018.
- 1.3 The letter at appendix two provides details of the audit fee for the Council along with the scope and timing of the planned work of Grant Thornton UK LLP and details of the staff responsible for delivering the audit.

2. Contacts

- 2.1 Grant Thornton UK LLP are the authors of the report.

3. Background Papers

3.1 There are no background papers to this report.

Anyone wishing to inspect background papers should, in the first place, be directed to Committee & Electoral Services who will make the necessary arrangements.

IMPLICATIONS	APPENDIX 1
Legal	N/A
Finance and Value for Money	The 2019-20 planned audit fee has been set at £41,036 - this is the same level of fee as 2018-19 and a 23% reduction on the fee of £53,294 for the 2017-18 audit.
Risk Assessment	N/A
Data Protection Impact Assessment	<p data-bbox="416 504 1469 607"><i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i></p> <p data-bbox="416 645 1485 842">a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of personal data or special category data or criminal offence data? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links. N/A</p> <p data-bbox="416 891 1474 1010">b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/A</p> <p data-bbox="416 1059 1490 1178">c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at gdpr@medway.gov.uk. N/A</p>
Equality Impact Assessment	<p data-bbox="416 1225 1506 1375">a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. N/A</p> <p data-bbox="416 1424 1449 1543">b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. N/A</p> <p data-bbox="416 1592 1506 1695"><i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i></p>
Corporate Plan	<p data-bbox="416 1720 1299 1753">There are no direct implications for the Council's strategic priorities.</p> <p data-bbox="416 1771 1493 1868">The work of the External Auditor provides assurance of the council's financial management arrangements and as such provides evidence of the delivery against Strategic Objective 4 - Sound & self-sufficient council.</p>
Crime and Disorder	N/A
Digital and website implications	N/A

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	N/A
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