

Classification: Public

Key Decision: No

Gravesham Borough Council

Report to: Finance & Audit Committee

Date: 13 September 2016

Reporting officer: Chris Long, Grant Thornton UK LLP

Subject: The Audit Findings for Gravesham Borough Council – Year ended 31 March 2016

Purpose and summary of report:

To inform Members of the findings of the council's External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, from the audit of the council's financial statements and arrangements for securing Value for Money for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Recommendations:

1. The Finance and Audit Committee is invited to take note of the adjustments to the financial statements which are set out in the Audit Findings report and the management response to the action plan at Appendix A of the report.

1. Background

2. Audit Findings – Statement of Accounts

- 2.1 The report at appendix two provides the draft conclusion of the External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, on the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016. The report highlights the key matters arising from the audit of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 and is used to report the audit findings to management and those charged with governance in accordance with the requirements of International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260 and the Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014.
- 2.2 At the time of preparing this report the audit is substantially complete. The External Auditor anticipates providing an unqualified opinion in respect of the financial statements of the Council. Representatives from Grant Thornton LLP will be in attendance at the meeting to provide a further update to Members.

3. Audit Findings – Value for Money Conclusion

- 3.1 The report at appendix two also sets out the External Auditor’s findings on the Council’s arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (Value for Money).
- 3.2 The External Auditor has found that, in all significant respects, the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2016.

4. Contacts

- 4.1 Grant Thornton UK LLP are the author of the report.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 There are no background papers to this report.

IMPLICATIONS

APPENDIX 1

Legal	N/A
Finance and Value for Money	N/A
Risk Assessment	N/A
Equality Impact Assessment	Screening for Equality Impacts
	Question
	<p>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.</p> <p>No</p>
	<p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer.</p> <p>No</p>
	<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>
Corporate Plan	N/A
Crime and Disorder	N/A
Digital and website implications	N/A
Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults	N/A