

**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

## **Gravesham Borough Council**

**Report to:** Finance & Audit Committee

**Date:** 12 September 2017

**Reporting officer:** Darren Wells, Grant Thornton UK LLP

**Subject:** The Audit Findings for Gravesham Borough Council – Year ended 31 March 2017

### **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 2017.

### **Recommendations:**

1. The Finance and Audit Committee is invited to review and take note of the Audit Findings report.

## **1. Background**

## **2. Audit Findings – Statement of Accounts**

- 2.1 The report at appendix two provides the conclusion of the External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, on the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017. The report highlights the key matters arising from the audit of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 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 As of writing this report, the External Auditor anticipates providing an unqualified opinion in respect of the financial statements of the Council for the year 2016/17. 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 2017.

### **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**

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