



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	AUDIT COMMITTEE - 30 JULY 2020
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM (14)
Subject	EXTERNAL AUDITOR ASSURANCE
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	N/A
Accountable officer	Jenny Poole - Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01285 623313 Email: jenny.poole@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	For the Audit Committee to discuss its response to the Council's external auditors (Grant Thornton LLP) regarding how the Audit Committee gains assurance on matters such as fraud, breaches of internal control and compliance with laws and regulations.
Annexes	Annex A - "Informing the Audit Risk Assessment 2019/20"
Recommendation/s	a) <i>That the Audit Committee considers the Grant Thornton Audit Plan for 2019/20.</i> b) <i>That the Audit Committee delegates responsibility to the Chief Finance Officer to complete the response to Grant Thornton, incorporating any changes approved at the meeting.</i>
Corporate priorities	Ensure that all services delivered by the council are delivered to the highest standard.
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer, Interim Chief Executive.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Each year the Council's external auditor is required to obtain an understanding of how those charged with governance exercise oversight of management's processes for identifying and reporting the risk of fraud and possible breaches of internal control in the Council. In addition, auditors need to understand how those charged with governance gain assurance that all relevant laws and regulations have been complied with.
- 1.2. Attached at Annex A is the Council's proposed response to the questions posed to the Council by the external auditor, Grant Thornton LLP.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. The draft responses have been prepared by the Council's Chief Finance Officer and her team.
- 2.2. The Committee are asked to consider the draft responses. Delegation to the Chief Finance Officer is sought to enable the final responses to be provided to Grant Thornton in a timely manner.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. None directly arising from this report. Details of the proposed audit fee for 2019/20 are contained with the External Auditor Reports item on this Agenda.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. None.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5.1. Should any further issues arise during the course of the audit that necessitate further audit, the auditor states that "*additional fees will be incurred, subject to PSAA approval*". The Chief Finance Officer has requested that advanced notice is provided of any work which is likely to incur additional audit fees as this has not taken place in previous years.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1. None.

(END)