



5TH JANUARY 2016

AUDIT COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM (8)

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

Accountable Member	Audit Committee
Accountable Officer	Jenny Poole Head of GO Shared Services 01285 623313 jenny.poole@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To receive the Annual Audit Letter from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors
Recommendation(s)	That the Annual Audit Letter for the financial year ending 31st March 2015 be noted
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	To comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, the Audit Committee is required to consider the Annual Audit Letter from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors

Ward(s) Affected	None
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	None
Legal and Human Rights Implications	To comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None
Human Resource Implications	None
Key Risks	None
Equalities Impact Assessment	Not Required

Related Decisions	None
Background Documents	None

Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Grant Thornton 'The Annual Audit Letter for Cotswold District Council year ended 31 March 2015'
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Performance Management Follow Up	None
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<p>Background Information</p> <p>1. The Annual Audit Letter summarises the key findings arising from the work that Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors, have carried out for the financial year ending 31st March 2015. The Letter is intended to communicate key messages to the Council and external stakeholders, including members of the public. The Annual Work Programme, which includes nationally prescribed and locally determined work, has been undertaken in accordance with the Audit Plan issued by Grant Thornton on 23rd February 2015, and was conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice, International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and other guidance issued by the Audit Commission and Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.</p> <p>2. The letter has been agreed with the Chief Financial Officer.</p> <p>3. The audit conclusions in relation to 2014/15 are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an unqualified opinion on the accounts which give a true and fair view of the Council's financial position as at 31st March 2015 and its income and expenditure for the year; • an unqualified conclusion in respect of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. <p>4. At the time of issuing the Annual Audit Letter, certification work on grant claims and returns was on-going. Key findings are reported elsewhere on this agenda as the work has now been completed (Agenda Item (9) refers).</p> <p>5. A copy of the Annual Audit Letter is attached at Appendix 'A'. It will be circulated to all Members and made available on the Council's Website.</p>

(END)