



AUDIT COMMITTEE

5TH APRIL 2016

AGENDA ITEM (10)

GRANT THORNTON ASSURANCE

Accountable Member	N/A
Accountable Officer	Jenny Poole Chief Finance Officer 01285 623313 jenny.poole@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	For the Audit Committee to discuss its response to a letter from the Council's external auditor (Grant Thornton) regarding how the Audit Committee gains assurance on matters such as fraud, breaches of internal control and compliance with laws and regulations.
Recommendation(s)	That the Chairman of the Audit Committee be authorised to sign the response to the letter from Grant Thornton.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	Grant Thornton requires an official response from the Chairman of the Council's Audit Committee.

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

Financial Implications	None
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None
Human Resource Implications	None
Key Risks	None
Equalities Impact Assessment	Not Required

Related Decisions	None
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Background Documents	None
Appendices	Appendix A – Letter from Grant Thornton to the Chair of the Audit Committee and draft response to questions

Performance Management Follow Up	Subject to the views of the Committee, arrange for the letter to be sent
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Background Information

1. The Council's external auditor (Grant Thornton) is required to comply with International Auditing Standards. Auditors are therefore 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.
2. Grant Thornton has submitted the letter attached at **Appendix A** to the Chair of the Audit Committee. The draft responses to the various Auditor Questions are also included in **Appendix A** for Members' consideration.

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