



24TH JANUARY 2017

AUDIT COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM (8)

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

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

Purpose of Report	To receive the Annual Audit Letter from the Council's external auditors (Grant Thornton).
Recommendation(s)	That the Annual Audit Letter 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 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 31st March 2016
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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 have carried out at Cotswold District Council for the year ended 31st March 2016. 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 and was conducted in accordance with the National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice, which reflects the requirements of Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.</p> <p>2. The letter has been agreed with the Chief Financial Officer.</p> <p>3. The audit conclusions in relation to 2015/16 are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements; • a satisfied value for money 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 that work has now been completed.</p> <p>5. A copy of the Annual Audit Letter is attached at Appendix 'A'. Copies will be circulated to all Members and a copy will be uploaded onto the Council's Website.</p>
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