



Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 9</b>
Subject	<b>ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr. Mike Every Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance
Accountable officer	Jenny Poole, Chief Finance Officer Jenny.Poole@cotswold.gov.uk 01285 623313
Summary/Purpose	For Members to receive and discuss details of the Annual Audit Letter for 2019/20 from the Council's external auditors (Grant Thornton).
Annexes	Annex A – Grant Thornton report – “The Annual Audit Letter for Cotswold District Council”
Recommendation/s	<i>That the Committee discuss and note the Annual Audit Letter</i>
Corporate priorities	Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standard.
Key Decision	No
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	N/A

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** The Council's external auditor (Grant Thornton) has provided the Annual Audit Letter for 2019/20 (see Annex A).
  
- 1.2.** The Annual Audit Letter summarises the key findings arising from the work carried out by Grant Thornton at the Council for the year ended 31 March 2020. Detailed findings from the audit work were reported to the Council's Audit Committee (as those charged with governance) in Grant Thornton's Audit Findings Report on 26 November 2020. The key points from the Letter are summarised below:

### **Financial statements opinion**

- 1.3.** The auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements on 27 November 2020.

### **Value for money conclusion**

- 1.4.** The auditor was satisfied that the Council put in place proper arrangements to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources during the year ended 31 March 2020. This was reflected in the audit opinion on 27 November 2020.

### **Certificate**

- 1.5.** The auditor certified the completion of the audit of the accounts of Cotswold District Council in accordance with the requirements of the Code on 27 November 2020.
  
- 1.6.** Representatives from Grant Thornton have been invited to the meeting and will be available to answer any questions on the Annual Audit Letter.