

Report to: **Audit Committee**

Date of Meeting: **22 January 2020**

Report Title: **Audit Progress Report and Sector Update**

Report By: **Peter Grace, Assistant Director Financial Services & Revenues**

Purpose of Report

To inform the Audit Committee of External Audit progress in delivering their responsibilities and providing a Sector Update.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That the report be noted**

Reasons for Recommendations

As a communication channel for Grant Thornton to inform the Committee on progress in delivering their responsibilities as our External Auditor and to provide a summary of emerging national issues and developments that are relevant to us as a local authority.

Introduction

1. This is a new type of report received from External Auditors that the Committee will have seen for the first time.
2. It summarises progress as at January 2020 including the status on each of the key external audit deliverables.
3. The second part of the report provides a sector update, specifically;

MHCLG – Independent probe into local government audit

National Audit Office – Code of Audit Practice

Financial Reporting Council – Summary of key developments for 2019/20 annual reports.

What is the future for local audit?

Grant Thornton’s Sustainable Growth Index Report

Institute for Fiscal Studies – English local government funding: trends and challenges in 2019 and beyond

4. The detailed report can be found at appendix A.
5. We are expecting a senior manager, the Engagement Lead, from Grant Thornton to attend the meeting and present the report.

Timetable of Next Steps

6. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Not applicable – this is an information report only	-	-	-

Wards Affected

None.

Implications

Relevant project tools applied? ~~Yes/No~~/N/A

Have you checked this report for plain English and readability? Yes/~~No~~

Climate change implications considered? ~~Yes~~/No

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness

Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)

Risk Management ✓

Environmental Issues

Economic/Financial Implications ✓

Human Rights Act

Organisational Consequences

Local People's Views

Anti-Poverty

Additional Information

Appendix A – Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

Officer to Contact

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