

Audit Findings Report 2018/19

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Purpose of the Report

1. This report introduces Grant Thornton UK LLP's Audit Findings Report for 2018/19.

Recommendations

2. That the Audit Committee considers the matters identified in the report, and note the draft audit findings as outlined in Section two of the report.
3. Note the opinion on the financial statements, opinion on other matters, and the conclusion regarding arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the authority's use of resources, as stated in Appendix E.

Background

4. Under the Audit Commission's Code of Audit Practice, Grant Thornton report on the overall financial statements and governance of South Somerset District Council. The review of these reports is included within the remit of Grant Thornton under its terms of reference as follows:

"To consider the reports of external audit including the Annual Audit Letter and seek assurance from management that action has been taken."

"To review and approve the annual Statement of Accounts, external auditor's opinion and reports to members and monitor management action in response to issues raised."

5. The Audit Findings Report summarises the findings from the review undertaken by Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor.
6. The Grant Thornton report gives an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for 2018/19. It also outlines that in all material respects the Council has complied with the requirements of IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards).
7. The report states that no material misstatements were identified. Two misclassification and disclosure changes were found and adjustments have been made to the final set of financial statements along with some minor syntax errors as detailed in Appendix C. The action plan agreed by officers is included in Appendix A.
8. Grant Thornton is required to make a statement on whether the authority has made arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources i.e. whether it provides value for money. The auditor's conclusion is that the authority has proper arrangements in place in all significant respects.

Financial Implications

9. The fees charged for the audit of the Statement of Accounts are £42,443. This is £4,500 more than anticipated due to additional work in respect of the audit code. These additional fees are subject to approval by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) in line with the terms of appointment of external auditors. Non audit fees for the Housing Benefit grant certification are £8,000. There are no additional financial implications associated with the report.

Background Papers: None
