

West Somerset Council

Audit Committee – 19 March 2019

External Audit – Audit Plan 2018/19

This matter is the responsibility of Councillor Martin Dewdney

Report Author: (Andrew Stark, Interim Head of Financial Services and Deputy s151 Officer)

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report introduces the Audit Plan for 2018/19. This is prepared by our external auditors, Grant Thornton, and is detailed in the appendix to this report.
- 1.2 The report summarises their approach to the 2018/19 audit programme, together with the auditors review on risk, materiality and value for money.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to note the External Audit Plan for 2018/19 received from Grant Thornton.

3 Risk Assessment

Risk Matrix

Description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall
The Council fails to maintain an adequate system of internal control.	2	3	6

Risk Scoring Matrix

Likelihood	5	Almost Certain	Low (5)	Medium (10)	High (15)	Very High (20)	Very High (25)
	4	Likely	Low (4)	Medium (8)	Medium (12)	High (16)	Very High (20)
	3	Possible	Low (3)	Low (6)	Medium (9)	Medium (12)	High (15)
	2	Unlikely	Low (2)	Low (4)	Low (6)	Medium (8)	Medium (10)
	1	Rare	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	Low (5)
			1	2	3	4	5
			Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
			Impact				

Likelihood of risk occurring	Indicator	Description (chance of occurrence)
1. Very Unlikely	May occur in exceptional circumstances	< 10%
2. Slight	Is unlikely to, but could occur at some time	10 – 25%
3. Feasible	Fairly likely to occur at same time	25 – 50%
4. Likely	Likely to occur within the next 1-2 years, or occurs occasionally	50 – 75%
5. Very Likely	Regular occurrence (daily / weekly / monthly)	> 75%

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 Each year our external auditors, Grant Thornton, provide a plan which details their approach to the audit work required in respect of the preceding financial year (2018/19). Specifically this audit work focuses on the provision of an audit opinion in relation to the final accounts, value for money and associated key risk areas.
- 4.2 The plan for 2018/19 is set out in Appendix A.

5 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities

- 5.1 None in relation to this report.

6 Finance / Resource Implications

- 6.1 The report sets out the external auditors view on key risks for the Council and their approach to auditing them.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 None in this respect of this report.

8 Environmental Impact Implications

8.1 None in respect of this report.

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications

9.1 None in respect of this report.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications

10.1 None in respect of this report.

11 Social Value Implications

11.1 None in respect of this report.

12 Partnership Implications

12.1 None in respect of this report.

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications

13.1 None in respect of this report.

14 Asset Management Implications

14.1 None in respect of this report.

15 Consultation Implications

15.1 None in respect of this report.

Democratic Path:

- **Audit Committee – Yes**
- **Full Council – No**

Reporting Frequency: **Once only** **Ad-hoc** **Quarterly**
 Twice-yearly **Annually**

Contact Officers

Name	Andrew Stark	Name	Sue Williamson
Direct Dial	01823 219490	Direct Dial	01823 219470
Email	a.stark@tauntondeane.gov.uk	Email	s.williamson@tauntondeane.gov.uk