

Meeting: AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item:

Date: 23 September 2008

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EXTERNAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN 2008-09

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise Members of the External Audit and Inspection Plan 2008-09 (attached at Appendix A) to be carried out by the Council's appointed external auditors, Grant Thornton.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That External Audit and Inspection Plan 2008-09 be noted.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council's current external auditors the Audit Commission have been replaced by Grant Thornton for the audit of the 2008/09 accounts.
- 3.2 The Council will also be subject to a new use of resources framework in 2008/09, the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). This replaces the Comprehensive Performance Review (CPA).

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

- 4.1 The full External Audit and Inspection Plan 2008-09 is attached at Appendix A. The plan covers the following key areas:
- Use of Resources Audit
 - Financial Statements Audit
 - Grant Claims and Returns
 - The Grant Thornton Audit Team
 - Audit Fee

4.2 Grant Thornton's fees in respect of 2008/09 are set out in the table below:

Grant Thornton 2008-09 Audit Fee	£
Financial Statements	92,900
Use of Resources	39,300
Whole of Government Accounts	2,500
Total Fee (excluding grant claims)	134,700
Fee for CAA	6,634
Total Fees (excluding grant claims)	141,334

4.3 The 2008/09 original budget for external audit fees is £236,730 (General Fund £165,490 and HRA £71,240). The 2008/09 budget provision includes an allowance for the fixed audit fee and the remaining budget resources the audit of grant claims.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

Financial implications arising from this report are detailed in paragraphs 4.2-4.3.

5.2 Legal Implications

None identified at this time.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix A – External Audit and Inspection Plan 2008-09