



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Council name	West Oxfordshire District Council
Name and date of Committee	Audit and General Purposes Committee Thursday 18 March 2021
Report Number	Agenda Item No. 5
Subject	External Auditor's Progress Report and Sector Update
Wards affected	All indirectly
Accountable member	Councillor Toby Morris, Cabinet Member for Resources Email: toby.morris@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Elizabeth Griffiths, Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01993 861188 623313 Email: elizabeth.griffiths@westoxon.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To provide the Audit and General Purposes Committee with an update from the Council's external auditor.
Annexes	Annex A – Grant Thornton Audit Progress Report and Sector Update
Recommendation	That the report be noted
Corporate priorities	Delivering excellent modern services whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council.
Key Decision	N/A
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	Not applicable.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. An update report from the Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton, is attached at Annex A.
- 1.2. The update report includes an update of progress on the audit deliverables for 2020/21, highlights emerging issues and development including revisions to auditing standards in relation to accounting estimates. The report also includes details of a revised approach to the auditor's value for money work in 2020/21 following the introduction of a new Code of Audit Practice from 1 April 2020.
- 1.3. Representatives from Grant Thornton will attend the meeting and be available to answer any questions on the report.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1. No specific financial implications. Grant Thornton are still in discussions with Public Sector Audit Appointments regarding audit fees for 2020/21 and will provide further detail in their Audit Plan which will be presented at the next Audit and General Purposes Committee meeting.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. The Council is required to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations when preparing the statement of accounts.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1. None.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None