



Audit Committee	Wednesday, 15 December 2021	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: External Audit Update Report (December 2021)

Report Author(s): Comie Campbell (Head of Finance/Acting Section 151 Officer)

Purpose of Report:	To update Members on the progress of the external audit of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts made up to 31 March 2021.
Report Summary:	<p>The Council's draft statement of accounts are required to be audited each year by set dates. There has been temporary legislative extension changes to these dates.</p> <p>Grant Thornton have provided an update on the date and timescale for auditing the Councils 2020/21 Draft Unaudited Statement of Accounts. These draft accounts include the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021.</p> <p>This report also includes recommendations Grant Thornton have made following the audit of the Council's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.</p>
Recommendation(s):	<p>That the Committee:</p> <p>A. Notes that the Unaudited 2020/21 Statement of Accounts for the year ended March 2021 are subject to an external audit with a view to being reviewed and approved at an Audit Committee later this financial year.</p> <p>B. The Audit Plan 2020/21 has now been issued by Grant Thornton.</p> <p>C. Grant Thornton have issued a progress report on the external audit of the Councils 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.</p>
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Comie Campbell (Head of Finance/Acting Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2713 Comie.Campbell@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Providing Excellent Services (CO3)
Vision and Values:	"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision) Accountability (V1)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6)

Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 • Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External Audit Plan 2. External Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The publication of the Statement of Accounts is governed by the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011. These require the Statement of Accounts to be certified by the Council's Section 151 Officer as presenting a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council by 31 May each year. The accounts must then be submitted for external audit to publish audited accounts by no later than the 31 July each year.
- 1.2 However, due to the Covid 19 pandemic the deadlines have been altered, with the 2020/21 accounts being presented by 31 July 2021, with the audited accounts to be published by 30 September 2021. The 2020/21 unaudited accounts certified by the Section 151 Officer, were published on the Council's website on 26 August 2021.
- 1.3 Publication of the 2020/21 unaudited accounts on the Council website was delayed. This was due to waiting to finalise the figures and making relevant adjustments to the accounts once the previous year's 2019/20 Accounts were formally signed off on the 9 August 2021 by Grant Thornton.

2. Audit Plan

- 2.1 The Audit Plan is enclosed in **Appendix 1**. This highlights the planned scope and time scale of the statutory audit of the Council Statement of Accounts 2020/21. The report also includes the proposed audit fees of £55,444. Audit fees are also payable for auditing the Housing Benefits (Subsidy) £10,250 and Housing Capital Receipts £3,250 returns.

3. Progress report on audit of 2020/21 Statement of Accounts

- 3.1 The external auditors Grant Thornton have produced an Audit Committee Progress Report shown at **Appendix 2**. This outlines the current status of the 2020/21 audit and the estimated timescale for completing it by 31 January 2022 with a view to giving an audit

opinion soon after that date. The Progress report also gives an update on what is happening in the audit sector.