

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Audit, Governance and Standards Committee – 12 April 2021

External Audit – Progress Report and Sector Update

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Henley, Corporate Resources

Report Author: Martin Henwood, Corporate Finance Advisor

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The attached report provides the Audit Governance and Standards Committee with a progress update regarding the work of the external auditors, Grant Thornton, together with information relating to emerging issues which may be relevant to the Council.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to consider and note the Progress Report and Sector Update received from Grant Thornton.

3 Background and Full details of the Report

- 3.1 The Council's external audit function is undertaken by Grant Thornton. The external auditors, as part of their work, provide regular progress updates to Members via the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee together with updates in relation to emerging national issues which may be of relevance to the Council.
- 3.2 The update report is set out in the Appendix.

4 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities

- 4.1 This report links to the Council's aim of achieving financial stability.

5 Finance / Resource Implications

- 5.1 No material implications related to this report. The final housing benefit subsidy claim, totalling £30.5m for the year, was increased by £306 following the audit.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 sets out the framework for audit of local authorities.

Appendix:

Somerset West and Taunton Progress Report and Sector Update March 2021

Democratic Path:

- Audit Governance and Standards Committee – 12 April 2021

Reporting Frequency: Twice yearly

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