

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Audit and Governance Committee – 26 July 2021

External Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

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

Report Author: Paul Fitzgerald, Assistant Director Finance and S151 Officer

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The attached report provides the Audit and Governance Committee with a progress update regarding the work of the external auditor, Grant Thornton LLP, 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 and Governance Committee together with updates in relation to emerging national issues which may be of relevance to the Council.

4 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities

- 4.1 This report links to the Council's aim of achieving financial sustainability and also relates to statutory requirements for financial reporting and audit arrangements.

5 Legal Implications

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

Democratic Path:

- Audit Governance and Standards Committee – 12 April 2021

Reporting Frequency: Ad hoc

Contact Officers

Name	Paul Fitzgerald
Direct Dial	01823 217557
Email	S151@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk