

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 21 JULY 2017

EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT – WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL STATUTORY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

Recommendation

- 1. The Chief Financial Officer recommends that the progress made on the External Audit of the 2016/17 Worcestershire County Council Statement of Accounts be noted and the plan return to the Committee meeting on 26 September 2017 for final approval.**

Background

2. This report sets out progress on the work to date to support the independent external audit of the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts. An interim audit findings report from the County Council's External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP is included.
3. The Chief Financial Officer would like to express his thanks to Grant Thornton staff for the external audit work completed to date.

2016/17 Closedown Process – Key Dates

4. Completion of the Statement of Accounts process for the 2016/17 financial year and their approval by the Audit and Governance Committee is planned for the 26 September 2017 Committee meeting alongside formal approval by Committee of the Annual Governance Statement.
5. It has been usual practice for many years for the Audit and Governance Committee to approve an audited set of accounts and the Annual Governance Statement, subject only to matters arising from the public inspection period or the statistical Whole of Government Accounts reporting exercise, at its annual June/July meeting.
6. This year the process has proved more difficult to complete, and further work will be required by the County Council and subsequently the External Auditor over August 2017 to complete the process.
7. Whilst this is later than originally planned, the County Council has met its statutory obligations by issuing a set of accounts before the end of June on the County Council's website and advertising the formal 30 day public inspection period which finished on 14 July 2017. The final stage in this process will be the Committee approval in September 2017.

8. The External Auditor has issued an interim findings report which is included as an Appendix. This report summarises findings to date to support a detailed work plan that the County Council will follow to ensure errors and misstatements are corrected and all items of outstanding work are completed prior to the September 2017 Committee meeting.

Contact Points

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Supporting Information

- Appendix - Interim Audit Findings Report 2016/17 (To follow)

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Chief Financial Officer) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Statement of Accounts 2015/16
- Budget 2016/17