

## Audit & Standards Committee

6 September 2017

### External Auditors Audit Findings Report 2016/17

#### Recommendation

The Committee:

- 1) Endorses the Annual Governance Report of the External Auditors for Warwickshire County Council, attached at Appendix A, and consider whether there are any matters it wishes to bring to the attention of Council.
- 2) Approve, subject to any changes which may be necessary to the final draft, the wording of the Letter of Representation, attached at Appendix B.

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. Our external auditors, Grant Thornton, are required to report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the County Council's financial statements before issuing their final opinion. Their report for 2016/17 is attached at **Appendix A**. This report is in addition to the usual Audit Management Letter which will be presented to this Committee later this year. A separate audit findings report is required for the Warwickshire Pension Fund; this can be found elsewhere on today's agenda.
- 1.2. As part of the audit process the External Auditors require written confirmation about the fairness of various elements of the financial statements. This is known as the Letter of Representation. In the letter the Head of Finance and those charged with governance on audit matters declare that the financial statements and other presentations to the auditor are sufficient and appropriate and without omission of material facts to the financial statements, to the best of their knowledge.
- 1.3. The Audit and Standards Committee are asked to approve, subject to any changes which may be necessary to the final draft, the wording of the Letter of Representation for the County Council (**Appendix B**). The final version of the letters will be signed, by the Chair of the Council and the Head of Finance, when the accounts are approved by Council on 21 September 2017.

- 1.4. The Engagement Partner for Grant Thornton and the Audit Manager will attend the meeting to present their report.

## 2. Background Papers

- 2.1. None.

|                    | <b>Name</b>     | <b>Contact Information</b>   |
|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| Report Author      | Virginia Rennie | <a href="mailto:vrennie@warwickshire.gov.uk">vrennie@warwickshire.gov.uk</a><br>Tel: 01926 41 (2239) |
| Head of Service    | John Betts      | <a href="mailto:johnbetts@warwickshire.gov.uk">johnbetts@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>                     |
| Strategic Director | David Carter    | <a href="mailto:davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk">davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>                 |
| Portfolio Holder   | Peter Butlin    | <a href="mailto:peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk">peterbutlin@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>                 |

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

None