

Report of the Treasurer

6. External Audit Fee 2015/16

Purpose of report

1. To apprise the Audit and Standards Committee of the audit fee for the Authority along with the scope and timing of work to be undertaken.
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Recommendation

The Treasurer recommends that the report be noted.

Introduction and Background

2. Grant Thornton (UK) LLP was appointed by the Audit Commission to act as auditors for Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority.
3. The Commission determined the scale fee for Audit work for the period of the contract. The abolition of the Commission and outsourcing of the Audit service have significantly reduced Audit fees by over 40% since 2010/11.

Scale Fee

4. The scale fee is defined as the fee required by auditors to carry out the work necessary to meet statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice.
5. The Authority's scale fee for 2015/16 is £32,872 which is lower than the £43,829 fees for 2013/14 and 2014/15.
6. Fees will be reviewed and updated as necessary as the audit work progresses, but in the last two years it has not been necessary to charge anything in addition to the scale fee..
7. Fees will be billed quarterly in advance.
8. The scale fee excludes any work requested by the Authority that Grant Thornton may agree to undertake outside of the audit code. Each additional piece of work will be separately agreed and a detailed project specification and fee agreed with the Authority.

Outline Audit Timetable

9. Audit planning and interim audit procedures will be undertaken in the spring of 2016. Upon completion of this phase of work a detailed audit plan setting out findings and details of audit approach will be issued. Final accounts and work on the Value for Money Conclusion will be completed in July/August 2016 and work on the whole of government accounts return in September 2016.

Phase of Work	Timing	Outputs
Audit planning and interim audit	January to March 2016	Audit Plan
Final accounts audit	July to September 2016	Report to those charged with governance
Value for Money Conclusion	January to September 2016	Report to those charged with governance
Whole of government accounts	September 2016	Opinion on the Whole Government Accounts (WGA) return
Annual audit letter	October 2016	Annual audit letter to the Authority

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	Fees (see paras 4 – 8)
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	None.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	N/A

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Grant Thornton UK LLP – Planned Audit Fee for 2015/16 letter dated 14/04/2015

Contact Officer

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