

Report of the Treasurer

6. External Audit Fee 2016/17

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 External Audit Fee 2016/17 from Grant Thornton UK LLP 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. Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) as successor body to the Audit Commission continues to determine the scale fee for Audit work.

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 2016/17 is £32,872 which is the same audit fee set for 2015/16 and considerably less than the circa £80,000 pre-Austerity fees.
6. Fees will be reviewed and updated as necessary as the audit work progresses.
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 has already commenced. 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 2017 and work on the whole of government accounts return in August 2017.

Phase of Work	Timing	Outputs
Audit planning and interim audit	Nov 16 – Feb 17	Audit Plan
Final accounts audit	Jun – Aug 17	Audit FindingsReport (to those charged with governance)
Value for Money Conclusion	Jun – Aug 17	Audit FindingsReport (to those charged with governance)
Whole of government accounts	Aug 17	Opinion on the Whole Government Accounts (WGA) return
Annual audit letter	Oct 17	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 2016/17 letter dated 12 April 2016

Contact Officer

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