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| <b>Decision Maker:</b>    | Audit and Performance Committee                                     |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 3 February 2016                                                     |
| <b>Classification:</b>    | General Release                                                     |
| <b>Title:</b>             | Grant Thornton Audit Plan 2015/16                                   |
| <b>Financial Summary:</b> | There are no direct financial implications arising from the report. |
| <b>Report of:</b>         | <b>City Treasurer</b>                                               |

## 1. Executive Summary

1.1 Grant Thornton are responsible for the audit of the 2015/16 accounts and the enclosed provides and overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit.

1.2 It covers the following areas:

- Understanding your business
- Developments and other requirements relevant to the audit
- Our audit approach
- Significant risks identified
- Other risks identified
- Value for Money
- Results of interim audit work
- Key dates
- Fees and independence
- Communication of audit matters with those charged with governance

1.3 The Grant Thornton report in relation to the financial year 2015/16 is shown at Appendix A.

1.4 There are no recommendations at this stage that Grant Thornton need to raise for Members consideration

## 2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Grant Thornton 2015/16 Audit Plan is noted

## 3. Grant Thornton Audit Plan 2015/16

3.1 The Audit Plan identifies four challenges/opportunities covering the Autumn Statement, Devolution, Housing and Integration with the Health Sector City and sets out how the auditors will determine how the Council has responded to these

3.2 There are a number of developments and other requirements in fair value accounting, corporate governance, highways network assets joint arrangements which Grant Thornton will review

3.3 Grant Thornton's audit approach and their judgement of the Council's financial materiality level in respect of the accounts is also shown

3.4 The auditors have identified four potential significant risks: MSP, fraudulent transactions, management over ride and valuation of property, plant and equipment and set out how they will address these. They also identify a number of other risks. The auditors have also identified three potential significant risks for the Pension Fund audit: MSP, fraudulent transactions and management over ride and set out how they will address these. They also identify a number of other risks.

3.5 Grant Thornton's approach to assessing whether the Council has in place proper arrangements for securing VfM is shown and the results of their interim audit work

3.6 Finally key dates, fees and communication are dealt with

## 4 Financial Implications

4.1 The audit fee is fully provide for within the Council's budget

## 5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS: None**

**If you have any queries about this report please contact: Steven Mair on 0207 641 2904 or at [smair@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:smair@westminster.gov.uk)**