

Report of: Director of Corporate Resources

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Audit Committee	25th May 2021		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Updated External Audit Plan**1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 Grant Thornton presented their audit plan for the external audit of the Council and the Pension Fund for 2020/21 to the Audit Committee on the 16th March 2021. Since then, Grant Thornton have confirmed their anticipated fees and updated their audit plan accordingly. No other updates have been made to the report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the total anticipated fee for the external audit for the Council and Pension Fund for the year ending 31 March 2021 is £231,579.

3. Background

- 3.1 Each year the Council's external auditor presents to the Audit Committee their audit plan along with management response to audit recommendations for approval. The report was presented to the Committee on the 16th March 2021 however the fees were subject to confirmation.

4. Implications

4.1 **Financial Implications:**

The proposed fees include additional charges for enhanced levels of assurance required as a result of increased expectations on the audit sector. In addition there are changes in financial standards and the implementation of a new key system which require additional audit resources.

Scale Fee	£156,179
Raising the Bar additional FRC requirements	£24,900
Additional VfM requirements	£26,000
New revised ISAs (540,240, 570 etc)	£17,000
Work on new income system for 2020-21	£7,500
Total Fee	£231,579

MHCLG have provided a grant of £15m nationally to meet the cost of enhanced requirements. Individual allocations to authorities are yet to be confirmed however we anticipate that the combination of existing budgets and the additional income will cover the total cost of the audit.

4.2 **Legal Implications:** none

4.3 **Environmental Implications and contribution to net zero carbon by 2030.**

There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

4.4 **Resident Impact Assessment**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

A resident impact assessment has not been carried out since the contents of this report relate to a purely administrative function and there are no direct impacts on residents.

5. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations:**

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the attached updated audit plan in order to acknowledge the methodology and cost of the external audit process.

Appendices:

Updated External Audit Plan year ending 31 March 2021

Background papers: none

Final Report Clearance:

Signed by:



Director of Corporate Resources

Date: 10 May 2021

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

Report Author: Mumba Mumba, Strategic Revenue Manager
Tel: 020 7527 2432
E-mail: mumba.mumba@islington.gov.uk