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|  Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee - 30 June 2015 | | Agenda Item No. <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">6</div> |
| Title | External Audit Fees 2015/16 | |
| For further information about this report please contact | Mike Snow 01926 456800 | |
| Wards of the District directly affected | N/A | |
| Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006? | No | |
| Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number | May 2014 | |
| Background Papers | | |

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| Contrary to the policy framework: | No |
| Contrary to the budgetary framework: | No |
| Key Decision? | No |
| Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number) | No |
| Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken | No |
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| Officer/Councillor Approval | | |
| Officer Approval | Date | Name |
| Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive | 9/6/2015 | Andrew Jones |
| Head of Service | 9/6/2015 | Mike Snow |
| CMT | | |
| Section 151 Officer | 9/6/2015 | Mike Snow |
| Monitoring Officer | 9/6/2015 | Andrew Jones |
| Finance | 9/6/2015 | Mike Snow |
| Portfolio Holder(s) | 9/6/2015 | Cllr Peter Whiting |
| Consultation & Community Engagement | | |
| Insert details of any consultation undertaken or proposed to be undertaken with regard to this report. | | |
| | | |
| Final Decision? | Yes/No | |
| Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below) | | |
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1. **Summary**

- 1.1 Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors have issued details of the proposed 2015/16 audit fees which are also presented for the Committee to consider. This is set out as an appendix to this report.

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Committee note the proposed fee for the 2015/16 audit.

3. **Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 Details of the proposed audit fees for 2015/16 are discussed in paragraph 5.

4. **Policy Framework**

- 4.1 By considering the documents, members can see how external audit can assist the Council in its priority of managing the Councils resources effectively and ensuring its services are of a high quality.

5. **Budgetary Framework**

- 5.1 The proposed fee to be charged for the Annual Audit of the 2014/15 Accounts, and associated work is £53,623, excluding grant claims with an indicative fee of £9,540, giving a total fee of £63,163. Details of the fees are set out in the Planned Audit Fee letter from Grant Thornton.
- 5.2 For 2013/14 the main fee was £70,597 and £8,530 for grant claims. The reduction in fees has been enabled by the procurement exercises run by the former Audit Commission across both the Local Government and Health Sectors.
- 5.3 This reduction in the fees charged will be used towards the savings targets that have been built into the financial projections and reflected within the Budget Review report to the Executive on 29 July.

6. **Risks**

- 6.1 As outlined in the fees letter, any additional work required may attract additional fees. This is the case for the work required on the 2013/14 Objections to the Accounts, for which an additional fee is still expected.
- 6.2 Whilst the number of grant claims being audited has reduced in recent years, the proposed fee may vary depending on the amount of work required.

7. **Alternative Option(s) considered**

- 7.1 No alternative options are proposed.