

# Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	<b>Corporate Audit Committee</b>	
MEETING DATE:	<b>4<sup>th</sup> December 2012</b>	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	<b>External Audit Update</b>	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: <b>E</b>
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		
<b>Appendix 1 – Audit Fee for Council &amp; Avon Pension Fund 2012/13</b>		
<b>Appendix 2 – Grant Certification Report 2011/12</b>		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The new External Auditor – Grant Thornton – will update the Committee on their planned approach to the future audit of the Council and the Avon Pension Fund. Also being presented is the Fees Letter for 2012/13 and the Grant Certification report for 2011/12.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Corporate Audit Committee is asked to note the update from the External Auditor including the planned fees for 2012/13 and the findings from Appendix 2.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The planned fees are approximately a 30% reduction on the previous year and are therefore in line with budget proposals.

## **4 THE REPORT**

- 4.1 Following the Government's announcement in 2010 to abolish the Audit Commission the Committee has been kept up-to-date with the subsequent progress towards their replacement as the external auditors of the Council and Avon Pension Fund. Following a national tendering exercise our new auditors are Grant Thornton and they will brief the committee on their approach to the audit of the Council and Pension Fund and any requests they have of the Audit Committee.

4.2 In addition attached at Appendix 1 is their fees letter for 2012/13 which sets out not only the planned audit fees but also a summary of the audit timetable and the key members of the audit team. Also attached at Appendix 2 is the Grant Certification report for 2011/12 which presents the findings from the Audit Commissions work on key grant claims relating to the Council.

4.3 The External Auditor will provide a verbal briefing on all these areas at the meeting.

## **5 RISK MANAGEMENT**

5.1 A proportionate risk assessment has been carried out in relation to the Councils risk management guidance. There are no new significant risks or issues to report to the Committee as a result of this report.

## **6. EQUALITIES**

6.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been carried out using corporate guidelines, no significant issues to report.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

7.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Section 151 Finance Officer and Strategic Director for Resources

<b>Contact person</b>	Jeff Wring (01225 47323)
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	