

EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2017/18

Responsible Officer Nigel Evans

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1. Summary

- 1.1 It has been previously agreed for the Joint Committee to continue with an external audit to provide the Joint Committee the necessary continued assurance regarding stewardship of funds. This report enables the Joint Committee to consider the audit plan for 2017/18.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Joint Committee are asked to consider and endorse, with appropriate comment, the audit plan for 2017/18 as presented by Grant Thornton.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 3.2 There are no direct environmental, equalities or climate change consequences arising from this report.
- 3.3 Grant Thornton's audit work is conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK).
- 3.4 The risks associated with not conducting an external audit including an audit opinion were considered when the decision was made to continue with an external audit.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The quoted audit fee for 2017/18 is £13,000 which is consistent to the fees charged for 2015/16 and 2016/17. These fees are a reduction of £5,386 (29%) compared to the fee for 2014/15 of £18,386.

5. Background

- 5.1 At the September 2015 Joint Committee, members were advised of the changes to the statutory audit requirements for Joint Committees effective from 1 April 2015. At this Joint Committee, it was agreed to continue with an annual external audit to provide the Joint Committee the necessary continued assurance regarding stewardship of funds.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Joint Committee 28 September 2015 – Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Member

Councillor P Price of Herefordshire Council (chair of the Joint Committee)

Appendices

Appendix A - Grant Thornton Audit Plan for West Mercia Energy (year ended 31 March 2018)