

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 24 July 2018

**EXTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT
(Appendix 1 refers)**

Contact for further information:

Keith Mattinson – Director of Corporate Services – telephone 01772 866804.

Executive Summary

The external auditor is required to produce an Audit Findings Report summarising the conclusions from their work undertaken as part of the year-end audit of accounts.

The report for the financial year ended 31 March 2018 is attached which does not identify any significant issues.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:-

- Note and endorse the matters raised in the report and the response to these
- Note the unqualified opinion on the financial statements
- Note the value for money conclusion
- Note the amended Statement of Accounts

Information

Under the statutory Code of Audit Practice for Local Government bodies our external auditors Grant Thornton are required to issue a report to those charged with governance summarising the conclusions from their audit work.

This report, known as the Audit Findings Report, is attached as Appendix 1, and will be presented by the Audit Manager.

The main issues within the report are as follows:-

- Audit opinion - the auditor will give an unqualified opinion on the financial statement
- Value for money – the auditors concluded that the Authority has proper arrangements in all significant respects to ensure it delivers value for money in its use of resources

The auditors have identified one adjusted mis-statement, relating to the treatment of our share of North West Fire Control, as set out on page 13-15 of the Audit Findings Report. This issue was highlighted last year however following discussions we

initially felt that this was not material and hence was not fully accounted for, however following further discussion we agreed to amend the accounts to reflect this.

The auditors have also identified four adjustments which are required in terms of misclassifications and disclosure changes as set out on page 16 of the Audit Finding Report, and these changes have been incorporated into the final statement of accounts.

It is worth noting that the auditor report highlights “The financial statements were prepared on time and to a good standard and we received good co-operation in completing our audit.”

Audit Action Plan

Grant Thornton have not made any recommendations following the audit, in accordance with the Audit Findings Report.

Financial Implications

The fee for the audit remained consistent with previous fee proposals and the current budget, £31k.

Human Resource Risk Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

Environmental Impact

None

Business Risk Implications

The report does not identify any new risk issues that the Authority needs to address.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		