
REPORT TO:	AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 5
DATE OF MEETING:	23rd SEPTEMBER 2015	CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE and CORPORATE SERVICES	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	KEVIN STACKHOUSE (01283 595811) Kevin.stackhouse@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC: u/ks/accounts/final accounts 1415/audit opinion/audit findings cover sept 15
SUBJECT:	THE AUDIT FINDINGS FOR SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: AS 05

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the report of the External Auditor is considered and approved.
- 1.2 That the Action Plan in Appendix A to the report is approved.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 For Grant Thornton as the Council's appointed auditors, to present their statutory annual report on the Council's accounts and financial statements for 2014/15. This satisfies their obligation to report their findings to management and those charged with governance under International Auditing Standard (ISA) 260.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Grant Thornton's Report is attached. Audit Managers of Grant Thornton will attend the meeting and present the report to the Committee.
- 3.2 In summary, the report provides details on, together with any issues arising from, the Audit of the Council's annual accounts, financial statements and its internal control framework for 2014/15.
- 3.3 Consequently, the report provides an opinion on those accounts. Following consideration at this Committee, the accounts and financial statements themselves will be presented to the Finance and Management Committee on 24th September 2015 for formal adoption and publication.

Value for Money Assessment

- 3.4 In addition, the report assesses overall value for money arrangements at the Council. Consequently, the Auditors also provide an opinion on whether, overall, the Council provides value for money on a pure “yes or no” basis. This takes into account the Council’s performance on securing efficiency savings and its resilience to financial pressures.

Letter of Representation

- 3.5 At the end of the Audit, the Council is required to provide a Letter of Representation. This is also attached. It requires the Council’s Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer to provide assurances about the status of the accounts and financial statements.
- 3.6 It also confirms that the appropriate law, regulations and codes of practice have been complied with and that no irregularities exist that could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- 3.7 Essentially, it confirms that there are no material issues or transactions known, other than those already reported and disclosed that could materially affect the accounts for 2014/15.
- 3.8 Following this and subject to any issues raised, the Director of Finance will officially sign the letter to finalise this particular part of Audit work for the year.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None directly.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 None directly.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 None directly.

7.0 Background Papers

None