

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

24 JUNE 2019

1. EXTERNAL AUDIT WORK PROGRAMME AND SCALE OF FEES FOR 2019/20

Joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority note the external audit work programme and scale of fees for the 2019/20 audit work to be undertaken by Grant Thornton UK LLP.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to inform the Authority of the external audit work programme and scale of fees for 2019/20 as set out in the Planned Audit Fee for 2019/20 letter attached as an Appendix.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that following an exercise to outsource the public body audit work of the Audit Commission's in-house audit practice, the contract for undertaking of the external audit of this Authority was awarded to Grant Thornton UK LLP.
- 3.2 The scale of fees proposed for the delivery of the 2019/20 work programme is £29,750 which is the same charge as 2018/19.
- 3.3 Similarly, the work programme proposed for 2019/20 is broadly the same as the 2018/19 work programme. Essentially, the work programme will consist of an audit of the financial statements, audit work to enable a value for money conclusion and on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) return. This is applicable to all public bodies.

Ref. AU/2019/Apr/21503193

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report will not lead to policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Local Audit Bill sets out the framework to support the delivery of local public audit arrangements.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed scale fee for the 2019/20 external audit work programme is £29,750.

The contact officer for this report is Phil Hales, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 0121 380 6907.

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CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

MIKE GRIFFITHS
TREASURER