

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

Agenda Item No 8

meeting date: 20 NOVEMBER 2013
title: GRANT THORNTON PLANNED AUDIT FEE 2013/14
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
principal author: LAWSON ODDIE

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform members of the planned audit fee of Grant Thornton for this council for 2013/14.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 As members will be aware from previous reports, the Audit Commission transferred its in-house audit practice to the private sector by outsourcing through a procurement exercise.

2.2 The contract for the North West was awarded to Grant Thornton, who formally took the audit of this council from the 1 November 2012.

2.3 The procurement of external audit services secured substantial savings which were reflected in our audit fee for 2012/13.

3 PLANNED AUDIT FEE

3.1 We have been informed by Grant Thornton of the planned audit fee for 2013/14, as attached at Annex 1.

3.2 The council's original budget for the main audit fee was set in February as £54,020. The planned audit fee in the attached letter is substantially marginally lower than this at £52,700, which is unchanged from 2012/13.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 The audit fee for 2013/14 has remained unchanged from 2012/13.

HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

AA22-13/LO/AC
8 November 2013



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22 April 2013

Dear Jane

Planned audit fee for 2013/14

The Audit Commission has set its proposed work programme and scales of fees for 2013/14. In this letter we set out details of the audit fee for the Council along with the scope and timing of our work and details of our team.

Scale fee

The Audit Commission defines the scale audit fee as “the fee required by auditors to carry out the work necessary to meet their statutory responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. It represents the best estimate of the fee required to complete an audit where the audited body has no significant audit risks and it has in place a sound control environment that ensures the auditor is provided with complete and materially accurate financial statements with supporting working papers within agreed timeframes.”

The Council's scale fee for 2013/14 has been set by the Audit Commission at £52,702, which is unchanged from 2012/13.

Further details of the work programme and individual scale fees for all audited bodies are set out on the Audit Commission's website at www.audit-commission.gov.uk/audit-regime/audit-fees/201314-fees-and-work-programme

The audit planning process for 2013/14, including the risk assessment, will continue as the year progresses and fees will be reviewed and updated as necessary as our work progresses.

Scope of the audit fee

The scale fee covers:

- our audit of your financial statements
- our work to reach a conclusion on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources (the value for money conclusion)
- our work on your whole of government accounts return.

Value for Money conclusion

Under the Audit Commission Act, we must be satisfied that the Council has adequate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources,

focusing on the arrangements for:

- securing financial resilience; and
- prioritising resources within tighter budgets.

We undertake a risk assessment to identify any significant risks which we will need to address before reaching our value for money conclusion. We will assess the Council's financial resilience as part of our work on the VfM conclusion and a separate report of our findings will be provided.

Certification of grant claims and returns

The Council's composite indicative grant certification fee has been set by the Audit Commission at £10,140.

Billing schedule

Fees will be billed as follows:

Main Audit fee	£
September 2013	13,176
December 2013	13,176
March 2014	13,175
June 2014	13,175
Grant Certification	
June 2014	16,000
Total	68,702

Outline audit timetable

We will undertake our audit planning and interim audit procedures in January to March 2014. Upon completion of this phase of our work we will issue a detailed audit plan setting out our findings and details of our audit approach. Our final accounts audit and work on the VfM conclusion will be completed in July to September 2014 and work on the whole of government accounts return in September 2014.

Phase of work	Timing	Outputs	Comments
Audit planning and interim audit	January to March 2014	Audit plan	The plan summarises the findings of our audit planning and our approach to the audit of the Council's accounts and VfM.
Final accounts audit	July to Sept 2014	Audit Findings (Report to those charged with governance)	This report sets out the findings of our accounts audit and VfM work for the consideration of those charged with governance.

VfM conclusion	Jan to Sept 2014	Audit Findings (Report to those charged with governance)	As above
Financial resilience	Jan to Sept 2014	Financial resilience report	Report summarising the outcome of our work.
Whole of government accounts	September 2014	Opinion on the WGA return	This work will be completed alongside the accounts audit.
Annual audit letter	October 2014	Annual audit letter to the Council	The letter will summarise the findings of all aspects of our work.
Grant certification	June to December 2014	Grant certification report	A report summarising the findings of our grant certification work

Our team

The key members of the audit team for 2013/14 are:

	Name	Phone Number	E-mail
Engagement Lead	Karen Murray	0161 234 6364	karen.l.murray@uk.gt.com
Engagement Manager	Georgia Jones	0161 214 6383	georgia.s.jones@uk.gt.com
Audit Executive	Helen Palmer	0161 234 6360	helen.c.palmer@uk.gt.com

Additional work

The scale fee excludes any work requested by the Council that we may agree to undertake outside of our Code audit. Each additional piece of work will be separately agreed and a detailed project specification and fee agreed with the Council.

Quality assurance

We are committed to providing you with a high quality service. If you are in any way dissatisfied, or would like to discuss how we can improve our service, please contact me in the first instance. Alternatively you may wish to contact Sarah Howard, our Head of Public Sector Assurance sarah.howard@uk.gt.com.

Yours sincerely

Karen Murray
For Grant Thornton UK LLP