

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>GENERAL PURPOSES AND AUDIT COMMITTEE</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CLOSURE OF 2018/19 AUDIT</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>LISA TAYLOR</b> <b>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, INVESTMENT AND RISK</b> <b>(SECTION 151 OFFICER)</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR SIMON HALL CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The report is to inform the committee and key stakeholders of the conclusion of the 2018/19 audit.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> This report confirms that the audit of the 2018/19 accounts has been completed and provides the committee with a copy of the letter and certificate issued by Grant Thornton, the external auditors. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.	
<b>FORWARD PLAN KEY DECISION REFERENCE No.:</b>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>  <b>The Committee(s) is asked to:</b>  1.1 Note that the Audit of the 2018/19 Accounts has concluded as detailed in the letter contained at appendix 1 to this report.  1.2 Note that the certificate of completion of the 2018/19 audit has been issued, copy at appendix 2 of this report.	

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report is to inform the General Purposes and Audit Committee that the 2018/19 audit undertaken by Grant Thornton has been completed and the audit certificate has been issued and published on the Council's website with the Statement of Accounts.

## **3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 Upon completion of the annual audit of accounts the External Auditor is required to confirm to the local authority that the audit has completed and issue a certificate for the local authority to publish on its website alongside the statement of accounts.
- 3.2 Following the completion of the Pension Fund Annual Report and the subsequent review by Grant Thornton they have now concluded the audit of the pension fund accounts and annual report and have therefore been able to issue the Audit Certificate for 2018/19.
- 3.3 The letter sent to Croydon Council from Grant Thornton confirming the closure of the 2018/19 accounts has been published on the Council's website and is attached at appendix 1.
- 3.4 The certificate titled the Independent Auditor's Report is attached at appendix 2 and has also been published alongside the Statement of Accounts on the Council's website.

## **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no additional or new financial implications.

## **5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council Solicitor comments on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer that the Council are obliged to prepare a statement of accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and proper accounting practices. It is also under a duty to publish the audit certificate, which it has.

Approved by: Sandra Herbert, Head of Litigation and Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer)

## **6. Human Resources**

- 6.1 There are no immediate human resource impacts.

Approved by: Sue Moorman, Director of HR.

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**Report Author:** Lisa Taylor Director of Finance, Investment and Risk (Section 151 Officer)

**Background Documents:** None

**Contact Officer:** Lisa Taylor Director of Finance, Investment and Risk (Section 151 Officer)

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Letter from Grant Thornton – closure of the 2018/19 audit

Appendix 2 – Certificate from Grant Thornton – independent auditors report