



Derby City Council

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
19 July 2016

ITEM 5

Report of the Director of Governance and
Monitoring Officer

**Report in the Public Interest issued by Grant Thornton for the
Audit of Accounts 2013/2014 and 2014/15**

SUMMARY

- 1.1 On 16th June 2016, Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditors for the financial years up to and including 31st March 2015.
- 1.2 The Report in the Public Interest reports on a number of governance related issues, most of which are historical in nature.
- 1.3 On 1st July 2016, the Administration placed an Action Plan before Full council responding to the recommendations within the Report and Audit and Accounts Committee is responsible for oversight and progress Action Plan.
- 1.4 However, as the Report makes reference to a number of Standards related issues it was felt appropriate for these to be shared with the Standards Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the contents of the Report in the Public Interest in so far as it refers to the Standards Committee and issues related to the Code of Conduct

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 For the Standards Committee to formally note the comments contained within the report as they relate to Standards and Code of Conduct related matters.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 Role of the External Auditor

Grant Thornton was the Council's appointed External Auditor until the year ended 31 March 2015. Before granting a certificate, the External Auditor must assess both the financial accounts and the state of governance of the Council. Due to concerns reported to Audit and Accounts Committee in the Annual Governance Statements of 2013/14 and 2014/15, the Council's accounts have been qualified.

Grant Thornton has undertaken a public interest investigation pursuant to the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Council co-operated fully with the investigation.

4.2 Public Interest Report

Once issued, the Council is required via the Audit Commission Act 1998, to ensure the report is placed in a prominent place on the Council's website and that a public Full Council meeting is convened within one months of its publication to enable its contents to be considered. The Full Council took place on 1st July 2016.

Twelve recommendations have been proposed by Grant Thornton and an Action Plan has been prepared in response to the same. Progress against the recommendations has been made.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not applicable

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Janie Berry, Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer Steven Mason, Democratic Services Officer
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Janie Berry 01332 643616 janie.berry@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Report in the Public Interest issued by Grant Thornton on 16 th June 2016

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 Not applicable

Legal

2.1 The Report in the Public Interest has been prepared in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998.

Personnel

3.1 Not applicable

IT

4.1 Not applicable

Equalities Impact

5.1 Not applicable

Health and Safety

6.1 Not applicable

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 Not applicable

Property and Asset Management

8.1 Not applicable

Risk Management and Safeguarding

9.1 Not applicable

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The Council must act with integrity and transparency in all aspects of its decision making and all aspects of its governance.