Audit Committee

10 September 2026

Audit Progress Report and Sector Updates

Report from: Abbey Gough, Chief Finance Officer
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Summary

This report provides this Committee an update on the progress in Grant Thornton delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external auditors.

1. Recommendation

1.1. The Committee is asked to note the content of the Audit Progress Report and Sector Updates at appendix 1 to the report.

2. Budget and policy framework

2.1. The receipt of the audit sector progress report is a matter for the Audit Committee.

3. Background

3.1. Independent external auditors are responsible for undertaking audits within local authorities on behalf of the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA). The purpose of this report is to:
- provide a report on progress in delivering Grant Thorntons 'responsibilities as Medway Councils' external auditors
- provides a series of sector updates in respect of emerging issues which the Committee may wish to consider

4. Advice and analysis

4.1. The report attached as Appendix 1 highlights the following areas providing information relating to the auditor responsibilities for the Council:

- progress as at September 2026
- audit deliverables
- after the backstop, regaining assurance
- sector updates
  - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- Lessons from Auditors Annual Reports Managing Dedicated Schools Grant Deficits
- Adult Social Care
- Children’s Social care
- Making the Annual Governance Statement matter
- Public sector finance leaders’ barometer
- Valuing people
- Neighbourhood health frameworks
- Fit for purpose – partnerships and procurement
- Best value – have your say
- Audit Committee resources

4.2. The report from Grant Thornton was only received on 2 September 2026 and therefore will be circulated by 5 September 2026 to enable management to review and make comments on the information contained therein.

5. Risk management

5.1. There are no significant risks arising from this report.

6. Financial implications

6.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal implications

7.1. There are no direct legal implications to this report.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – External Audit Sector Progress Report and Sector Updates – to follow

Background papers

None