


Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET / AUDIT PANEL
Date:	12 December 2018
Executive Member / Reporting Officer:	Cllr Fairfoull – Deputy Executive Member Kathy Roe – Director of Finance Tom Wilkinson – Assistant Director of Finance
Subject:	ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER FOR 2017/18
Report Summary:	<p>To present to Members the annual audit letter for Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council and Greater Manchester Pension Fund from Grant Thornton for the external audit 2017/18.</p> <p>External Audit issued an unqualified opinion on the Council's financial statements and the financial statements of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund on 30 July 2018, in advance of the national deadline and almost two months earlier than in 2017.</p> <p>In August 2018, an assurance statement on the Whole of Government Accounts was issued, in advance of the national deadline. External Audit also issued the certificate confirming conclusion of the audit for 2017/18.</p> <p>External Audit provided an unqualified value for money conclusion in 2017/18, stating that in all significant respects, the Council put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, except that the Council cannot yet demonstrate sufficient improvement in Children's Services.</p>
Recommendations:	To note the Annual Audit letter.
Links to Community Strategy:	The Community Strategy helps determine priorities for Council spending; the spending is subject to external audit by Grant Thornton.
Policy Implications:	There are no direct policy implications.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	<p>These are the subject of the report.</p> <p>The Council's external auditors gave an unqualified opinion on the Council's 2017/18 financial statements, including the financial statements of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	This is the annual audit letter prepared by our external auditors summarising the key findings arising for the work that they have carried out at Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for the year ending 31 March 2018. It is a key tool in assessing how well the Council is performing in respect of its finance and governance.
Risk Management:	The external auditor provides an opinion on the financial statements of the Council, including the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, and an assessment of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the value for money conclusion).

Access to Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer, Heather Green (Finance Business Partner):

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