



Committee and Date

West Mercia Energy Joint
Committee

29th September 2020

Item

7

Public

EXTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2019/20

Responsible Officer Nigel Evans

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1. Summary

- 1.1 Grant Thornton, the Joint Committee's external auditors, have substantially completed their audit work regarding the financial statements of the Joint Committee for the year ended 31st March 2020 and this report enables them to present their audit findings to the Joint Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Joint Committee are asked to consider and endorse, with appropriate comment, the contents of the audit findings report presented by Grant Thornton.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 3.2 There are no direct environmental, equalities or climate change consequences arising from this report.
- 3.3 Grant Thornton's audit work was conducted in accordance with the International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice.

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Background

- 5.1 At the Joint Committee of 28 September 2015, it was highlighted that from 1st April 2015 implementation of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 meant that joint committees are no longer required to have their accounts separately prepared and audited. At this Joint Committee it was agreed to continue with an annual external audit in order to provide the Joint Committee with the necessary continued assurance regarding stewardship of funds.
- 5.2 Grant Thornton presented their audit plan for 2019/20 to the February Joint Committee which was considered and endorsed.
- 5.3 Grant Thornton have substantially completed their audit work of the WME financial statements and subject to the outstanding areas which they need to cover (as outlined on page five of their report), they anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion following this Joint Committee meeting.

<p>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</p>
<p>Joint Committee 25th February 2020 – External Audit, Audit Plan 2019/20</p>
<p>Joint Committee 28th September 2015 – Local Audit and Accountability Act</p>
<p>Member Councillor A Hardman of Worcestershire County Council (chair of the Joint Committee)</p>
<p>Appendices Grant Thornton, The Audit Findings for West Mercia Energy Year Ended 31 March 2020</p>