

\*PART A

AGENDA  
ITEM

**5**

**Report to:** Audit Committee  
**Date of meeting:** 18 March 2009  
**Report of:** Director of Finance  
**Title:** External Audit Progress report

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 Grant Thornton have prepared a summary of their progress on the current year's audit work and this is presented for the Committee's information.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Committee note the progress report.

**Contact Officer:**

For further information on this report please contact: Janice Maule, Director of Finance telephone extension: 8189 email: [janice.maule@watford.gov.uk](mailto:janice.maule@watford.gov.uk)

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

3.1 During 2008 Grant Thornton undertook their first audit of the council's accounts, which they reported on in September 2008 and their first use of resources assessment. The attached report sets out their progress on audit for the current year.

3.2 The auditors prepare various reports on their work during the course of the year and these will be presented to this Committee as appropriate. Current examples are a report on the Use of Resources assessment, one on data quality which is currently in draft pending officer feedback and a report on grant claims is expected shortly.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications arising from this report.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services comments that no legal issues arise from this report.

4.3 **Potential Risks\***

4.3.1 As no decisions are required, there are no risks to be considered.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - External Audit Progress Report – March 2009

Background Papers

None

File Reference

None

**WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL**
**AUDIT 2008/09**
**AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT - MARCH 2009**

<b>Work</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<b>Interim accounts audit</b> Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reviewing the work of Internal Audit</li> <li>• reviewing and testing internal controls, including IT controls</li> <li>• reviewing the key financial systems and performing walkthrough testing</li> </ul>	Underway. Key messages be reported to June 2009 Audit Committee.
<b>Use of Resources (UoR) assessment</b>	<p>We met with Council management in February to discuss arrangements for completing the 2009 UoR assessment. This was followed up by a presentation to members of the Cabinet and key officers regarding the new Comprehensive Area Assessment approach, of which we perform the UoR assessment.</p> <p>Our initial review of the Council's evidence for this year's assessment is currently underway and we shall be meeting with management to discuss progress in March.</p>
<b>Final accounts audit</b>	To be carried out from 20 July - 7 August 2009 and reported to the September 2009 Audit Committee as part of the Report to those charged with governance (ISA260).
<b>IFRS restatement work</b>	We have held a meeting with the Council in February to discuss the issues of the introduction of IFRS for Councils' for 2009-10.

**Grant Thornton UK LLP**
**March 2009**