

<b>Meeting Date</b>	26 March 2014
<b>Report Title</b>	Internal Audit – External Audit Protocol
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr Dewar-Whalley – Finance Portfolio
<b>SMT Lead</b>	Mark Radford – Director of Corporate Services
<b>Head of Service</b>	Brian Parsons – Head of Audit Partnership
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Brian Parsons – Head of Audit Partnership
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Classification</b>	Open

<b>Recommendations</b>	That the Audit Committee notes the attached protocol which sets out the working relationship between Mid Kent Audit and Grant Thornton.
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## **Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 1.1 A protocol has been developed in order to set out the key principles and procedures underpinning the working relationship between Mid Kent Audit and the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton. The Committee is asked to note the protocol.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 It is important that the respective and different roles of Internal Audit and External Audit are clear but there are opportunities for both parties to share and discuss audit plans, update and review issues identified through on-going or planned work, review progress and exchange key findings. This helps to ensure that best use is made of overall audit resources.
- 2.2 The working arrangements between Internal and External Audit have now been set out in a protocol which should provide assurance to the Audit Committee that both assurance providers work together appropriately. The protocol sets out principles for working together, rather than detailed procedures.
- 2.3 The protocol is shown at Appendix I.

## **3 Proposal**

- 3.1 It is important that Internal Audit and External Audit work together where appropriate in order to make the best and most efficient use of audit resources. The adoption of the protocol is intended to achieve this.

## **4 Alternative Options**

4.1 There is no suitable alternative action.

## **5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed**

5.1 The protocol has been discussed and agreed by the Head of Audit Partnership (Mid Kent Audit) and by Grant Thornton.

## **6 Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Corporate Plan	None identified at this stage
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage
Legal and Statutory	None identified at this stage
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None identified at this stage
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage
Sustainability	None identified at this stage

## **7 Appendices**

7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

- Appendix I: Internal Audit – External Audit Protocol for Mid Kent Audit

## **8 Background Papers**

8.1 None