

Meeting:	Audit & Governance Committee
Meeting date:	16 July 2015
Title of report:	Closure of 2013/14 accounts
Report by:	Director of resources

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

Countywide

Purpose

To note the completion of the audit of the 2013/14 accounts following the rejection of an objection received in relation to the energy from waste plant.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) **the closure of the 2013/14 accounts and the rejection of the objection received be noted.**

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To confirm the completion of the external audit on the 2013/14 accounts and to share the statement of reasons for the rejection of the objection received.

Key considerations

- 3 Grant Thornton confirmed on 10 June 2015 the conclusion of their audit work on Herefordshire's 2013/14 accounts.

- 4 No adjustments were required and an objection received regarding the waste PFI was rejected.
- 5 Grant Thornton's statement of reasons for rejecting the objection is attached (appendix a), in summary the Council:
- took into account relevant information in making its decision to build the energy from waste plant;
 - sought and obtained appropriate expert advice;
 - secured relevant financial information from appropriate experts;
 - determined and carefully considered appropriate quantitative and qualitative criteria in respect of value for money in reaching its decision.

Community impact

- 6 None.

Equality duty

- 7 None.

Financial implications

- 8 None.

Legal implications

- 9 None.

Risk management

- 10 A successful objection to the accounts carries a reputational risk. This has been mitigated by the rejection of the objection for the reasons detailed in the attached report.

Consultees

- 11 None.

Appendices

Appendix A - Statement of Reasons

Background papers

The 2013/14 statement of accounts can be viewed via the following web link:
<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/government-citizens-and-rights/democracy/council-finances>