

DFP/24/38
Audit
28 February 2024

Auditor's Annual Report for 2020/21 and 2021/22

Report of the Director of Finance and Public Value and the External Auditor – Grant Thornton LLP

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Audit Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

That the Audit Committee notes the Auditor's Annual Report for 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.

2) Background / Introduction

The Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton LLP, is required to provide an Auditor's Annual Report each year which confirms its Opinion on the Authority's financial statements and any significant matters in relation to the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The reporting requirements changed so that for 2020/21 onwards this information is presented in the form of an Auditor's Annual Report, replacing the previous Value for Money Conclusion report.

The Auditor reviews our arrangements under three main criteria:

- Financial sustainability
- Governance
- Improving economy, efficiency, and effectiveness

The timing of this report, which is a combined report in respect of financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22, reflects various factors causing delays in the ability of the auditor to issue the Opinion on the Statement of Accounts, for example national issues regarding the results of the triennial valuation of the Pension Fund (31 March 2022) and changes in accounting requirements for infrastructure assets. The report summarises the work undertaken by the external auditor and her final findings and recommendations in relation to value for money.

Angie Sinclair

Director of Finance and Public Value

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Finance: Councillor Phil Twiss

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