

Audit & Governance Committee  
12 March 2025

**External Audit: Auditor's Annual Report 2023/24**

**Purpose of the report:**

To share with the Committee EY's Auditor's Annual Report for 2023/24, setting out a summary of the work undertaken in relation to the 2023/24 financial year.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Committee:  
Notes the report and considers any issues it may wish to review further.

**Introduction:**

1. Under National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice published in November 2024 and the supporting guidance of the National Audit Office (NAO) published within their Auditor Guidance Note 3 (AGN 03), external auditors are required to produce an annual report setting out a summary of the work undertaken and findings relating to the 2023/24 financial year.

**Background**

2. The purpose of the Auditor's Annual Report is to bring together all of the auditor's work over the year and the value for money commentary, including confirmation of the opinion given on the financial statements and, by exception, reference to any reporting by the auditor using their powers under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.
3. The commentary aims to draw to the attention of the Council and the wider public relevant issues from the external audit work including recommendations arising in the current year and follow-up of recommendations issued previously, along with the auditor's view as to whether they have been implemented satisfactorily.

4. In January 2025, the Committee considered the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 and Audit Results Report, the Auditors Annual report repeats the key findings for this report, including confirmation of the unqualified opinion given on the financial statements.
5. In November 2024, the Committee considered the External Audit Progress Report which included the draft wording of the value for money commentary. No significant weaknesses in arrangement were identified in the report for financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness and these findings are repeated in Annex 1.

## Conclusion

6. EY's Auditor's Annual Report is attached in Annex 1.
7. The Council accepts the findings in respect of financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness and the recommendations from the Audit Findings Report 2023/24.

## Financial and value for money Implications

8. Financial Implications are outlined in Annex 1

## Equalities and Diversity Implications

9. There are no direct equalities implications of this report.

## Risk Management Implications

10. Risk Management implications are set out throughout Annex 1.

## Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

11. There are no direct legal implications of this report.

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### Sources/background papers:

- [Statement of Accounts 2023/24](#) and Audit Results Report.
- External Audits Progress Report to Audit & Governance Committee in November 2024.

### Annexes/Appendices:

Annex 1 - EY's Auditor's Annual Report for 2023/24

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