

External Audit Plan 2023/24



Report to: Audit and Standards

Date: 26 June 2024

Lead Officer: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Assistant Director – Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer) (01279) 446251

Executive Summary

A This report attaches the plan from our external auditors, KPMG, when carrying out their audit of the 2023/24 accounts.

Recommended that:

A The Committee notes the report and the planned audit work to be undertaken by KPMG, the council's new external audit provider for 2023/24.

Reason for decision

A It is the responsibility of the Council's audit committee function to oversee the audit of the accounts.

Other Options

A No other options need considering.

Background

1. KPMG have been appointed as our auditors by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd. The audit is governed by the provisions of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and in compliance with the NAO Code of Audit Practice. The NAO is consulting on a new Code of Audit Practice for 2023/24, therefore this plan will remain draft until the finalisation of that Code.

Issues/Proposals

2. This report outlines the auditor's risk assessment and planned audit approach. Their planning activities are still ongoing and they will communicate any significant changes to the planned audit approach.
3. They note that an audit opinion has not been expressed on the prior period, once the prior period audit opinion has been expressed, they will communicate any significant changes to the planned approach.
4. The report outlines the focus of the audit work based on a risk assessment of areas of the Councils activities and based upon previous issues relating to the production of the Annual Statement of Accounts.
5. Detailed planning work has been undertaken by the Council's Accountancy team in preparation for the preparation of the 2023/24 Statements and discussions have already taken place with KPMG regarding the requirements of the audit and the timetable to be followed.

Implications

Equalities and Diversity

Equality Impact Assessment was not required.

Climate Change

This report does not impact climate change.

Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Appropriate Budget is set aside within the medium-term financial plan to manage Audit fees.

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Governance

This report is for noting only.

Author: Julie Galvin, Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

Appendices

Appendix A – External Audit Plan 2023/24

Background Papers

None

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None