

Council

14 December 2021

External Auditors' Annual Audit Report 2020/21

Recommendation

Council is asked to:

- i. Consider the Annual Audit Report of the External Auditors, attached at Appendix A; and
- ii. Support the development of an action plan in response to the Annual Audit Report, for consideration and approval by Cabinet.

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. A new Code of Audit Practice came into force from 1 April 2020 for audit years 2020/21 onwards. The most significant change under the new Code is the introduction of an Auditor's Annual Report, containing a commentary on the Council's arrangements for securing value for money alongside the audit opinion on the Council's accounts.
- 1.2. The purpose of preparing and issuing the Annual Audit Report is to communicate to the audited body and key external stakeholders, including members of the public, the key issues arising from auditors' work, which auditors consider should be brought to the attention of the audited body.
- 1.3. Previously, the report came in the form of an Annual Audit Letter which was presented to Audit and Standards Committee. It is the new Code of Audit Practice that now requires this to be reported to full Council.
- 1.4. The Report, for 2020/21, is attached at **Appendix A** and covers both the County Council and Warwickshire Pension Fund. It summarises all of the work completed as part of the 2020/21 annual audit and review of value for money arrangements.

- 1.5. The auditors will attend the meeting to present the report.
- 1.6. Following Council's consideration of the report it is proposed that an action plan is developed in respect of the issues raised. This will be reported to the next meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee on 24 March 2022 before going on to Cabinet for approval on 12 April 2022.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. There are no material financial implications for the authority as a result of the issues raised in this report.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1. There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

4. Background Papers

- 4.1. None.

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Local Members consulted

Not applicable

Other Members consulted

None