

Audit and Standards Committee

25 May 2023

External Auditors Annual Audit Report 2021/22 - County Council Management Response and Action Plan

Recommendation(s)

That Audit and Standards Committee:

1. notes the final 2021/22 Audit Findings report attached at Appendix A; and
2. considers the management response to the recommendations in the external auditors reports as set out in Appendix B.

1. Annual Audit Reports for 2021/22

- 1.1 Our external auditors, Grant Thornton, prepare two annual reports to those charged with governance each year. The first is the Annual Audit Letter which was considered by this Committee on 26 January 2023. The second is the report on issues arising from the audit of the County Council's financial statements before issuing their final opinion, known as the Audit Findings report. A draft of this second report was also considered by the Committee at its meeting in January.
- 1.2 Since the January meeting a signed audit opinion for 2021/22 has been received and the financial statements published. Part of the final sign-off process was the issuing, by the external auditors, of an updated Audit Findings report. The updated report was shared with the Chair, in March, prior to the audit opinion being issued. To close the governance loop this final Audit Findings report is attached for the Committee's information at **Appendix A**. For ease, the changes from the draft report considered in January are highlighted and can be seen on pages 3, 5, 9, 11, 18 and 25.

2. Management Response and Action Plan

- 2.1 The 2021/22 Annual Audit Report included three improvement recommendations. There were no statutory or key recommendations.
- 2.2 The final 2021/22 Audit Findings report included four recommendations, assessed as medium for having limited effect on the financial statements. There were no recommendations assessed as 'high', having a significant effect on the financial statements.

- 2.3 The Authority takes account of all observations and recommendations from independent reviews in the way it operates, to ensure it can demonstrate it operates effectively and provides value for money for taxpayers and the people of Warwickshire. The proposed management response and action plan to the recommendations from both reports is attached at **Appendix B**.

3. Financial Implications

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

4. Environmental Implications

- 4.1 None.

Appendices

- A. WCC Audit Finding Report 2021/22 - Final
 B. Annual Audit Reports Action Plan

Background Papers

None

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Members were not consulted in the preparation of this report.