

County Council

19 December 2023

External Auditors' Annual Audit Report 2022/23

Recommendations

That Council:

- 1) considers the Annual Audit Report of the External Auditors, attached at Appendix A; and
- 2) requests that Audit and Standards Committee review the delivery of the management action in response to the recommendations in the Annual Audit Report.

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 was 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. The Report, for 2022/23, 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 2022/23 annual audit and review of value for money arrangements.
- 1.4. The auditors will attend the meeting to present the report.
- 1.5. The Auditors Annual Report contains several improvement recommendations to which the Council's management response is included as part of the report. It is proposed that Council request that the Audit and Standards Committee review the delivery of the management response over the next year.

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