

Audit and Standards Committee

28 November 2024

External Auditors Annual Report 2023/24

Recommendation

That the Audit and Standards Committee consider the Annual Audit Report of the External Auditors, attached at Appendix A, including whether any executive action is required.

1. Key Issues

- 1.1. The 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 2023/24, 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 2023/24 annual audit and review of value for money arrangements.
- 1.4. Following the consideration by this Committee, the Annual Audit Report will go on to full Council for consideration at the meeting on 17 December 2024. Any need for executive action raised by the Committee will be included as part of the covering report to full Council when the Annual Audit Report is presented by the external auditors.
- 1.5. The Audit Manager for Grant Thornton will attend the meeting to present their report.

2. Financial Implications

2.1. None.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1. None.

4. Background Papers

4.1. None.

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

None