

Chair's Report to Full Council – Audit and Standards Committee July 2021

External Auditors Progress Report

The Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton, reported on the initial planning work that had been undertaken for the 2020/21 audit. The scope and timing of the audit was presented to the Committee and discussed. Grant Thornton presented the new approach that was required to undertake the Value for Money review and the additional work that would be required to complete this. Questions raised by the external auditor, together with the Management response, was also presented to the Committee for discussion and approval in respect of the 2020/21 preparation of the financial statements.

Internal Audit Opinion 2020/21

This report provided the Committee with the Council's Chief Audit Executive's opinion on the internal controls of the Council for the 2020/21 financial year, which concluded that they had continued to operate effectively. Performance against the 2020/21 Internal Audit Plan was reported with the actual delivery for the year being slightly below the target due to the redeployment of the Auditor to support Covid activities and a vacant post for part of the year.

Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

The 2020/21 AGS was presented to the Committee. The production of the AGS is a statutory requirement of the Council and must be approved by a committee.

The Committee reviewed and approved the AGS for the 2020/21 financial year.

Strategic Risk Register Update

The Committee considered a revised Strategic Risk Register. The Strategic Risk Register was reviewed in March 2021 and the 'Failure to respond to widespread illness' risk was increased due to the impact of the variant strains.