

Chair of Audit and Standards Committee Report to Full Council

Meeting Date 14th December 2023

Annual Accounts 22/23

Further to the draft Statement of Accounts, which were approved by the Committee on 28th September 2023 subject to any material amendments identified during the completion of the outstanding areas of testing that still had to be completed by Grant Thornton, two material amendments had been made which were: -

- Removal of the pension surplus following clarification of the IFRIC14 assessment which now applied to all authorities following the triennial valuation.
- Adjustments between current assets and liabilities on the Balance Sheet. The adjustments net to £0 and did not change the net assets of the authority.

Therefore, the Council's amended audited Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 were submitted to the Committee for formal approval and signature by the Chair. The Committee were also asked to approve the Letter of Representation from the Director of Resources to Grant Thornton with signature from the Chair; and approve the signed 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement.

An update was also provided on the audit findings.

Auditor's Annual Report on Burnley Borough Council 2022/23

Grant Thornton presented their annual Auditor's report for 2022/23 and highlighted improvement recommendations for financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Arrangements for 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement

A report was submitted on the arrangements to provide assurance for an Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2023/24. This included a Member self-assessment questionnaire.

Strategic Risk Register

The Internal Audit Manager presented the Strategic Risk Register and explained the major change in the revision of the scoring system. The comments from Members were that a 5 by 5 scoring matrix should be used. As a result the previous 3 by 3 matrix was revised and the new scoring system introduced into the Council's Risk Management Method. The scoring system is used in both the National Risk Register and in the Lancashire Resilience Forum Community Risk Register.

Fraud Risk Assessment 23/24

The Internal Audit Manager presented report which informed Members of the current fraud trends that affect the public sector.

External Review Report

An update on the actions taken in response to the External Review of Internal Audit was presented by the Internal Audit Manager.

Internal Audit Progress Report 23/24 Q2

The Internal Audit Manager presented details of the work completed during the second quarter of 2023/24.