

COUNCIL	DATE 18.12.2019	ITEM NO 11
TITLE Annual Audit Letter	WARD(S) All	
CHIEF OFFICER Director of Finance	CABINET MEMBER Finance and Resources	
DECISION CLASSIFICATION Non exempt report & appendix	IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING? Yes	

1 **Decision required**

- 1.1 To note the 2018/19 Annual Audit Letter.
- 1.2 To note that the Annual Audit Letter was considered by the Audit and Risk Management Panel on 24 October 2019.

2 **Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 The purpose of preparing and issuing annual audit letters 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.

3 **Report**

- 3.1 The National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice requires external auditors to prepare an annual audit letter and issue it to each audited body – the Council's external auditor is Grant Thornton.
- 3.2 The 2018/19 annual audit letter is attached at Appendix A and summarises the key issues over the last financial year under the following headings:
 - Audit of the Accounts
 - Value for Money
 - Working with the Council.
- 3.3 The key areas were reported in detail earlier this year through the 2018/19 Audit Findings Report, whereby the auditor confirmed that the Council:

- had prepared timely accounts with no material errors
- has adequate plans for identifying risks and actions over the Medium Term Financial Strategy
- has proper arrangements in place with regards to securing Value for Money.

3.4 The external auditor has been invited to attend the meeting in order to present the letter and respond to Members questions.

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal	The Terms of Reference of the Audit and Risk Management Panel require the Panel to provide an independent assurance of the risk management framework and the associated control environment. Noting and commenting upon the Annual Audit Letter before it is considered by Full Council is an important part of this assurance.	John Scarborough, Director of Legal Services, 03/12/19
Finance	There are no new financial implications arising from this report.	Sandra Huber Head of Accounting & Business Change (Stewardship & Accountability) 28/11/19
Equalities	The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no apparent equality impact on end users.	Sandra Huber Head of Accounting & Business Change (Stewardship & Accountability) 28/11/19

4 Appendices

4.1 The following documents are to be published with and form part of the report:

Appendix A: Annual Audit Letter

5 **Background Papers**

Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
Audit Findings Report - Council 17 July 2019

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