

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

26 April 22

EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 21/22

Report of the Strategic Director for Resources

Strategic Aim:	All	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr K Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation	
Contact Officer(s):	Saverio Della Rocca, Director for Resources	01572 758159 sdrocca@rutland.gov.uk
	Andrew Merry, Head of Finance	01572 758152 amerry@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	N/A	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members:

1. Approve the proposed external audit plan for 21/22.
2. consider whether it wishes to make any comments in relation to responses to the risk assessment in Appendix B.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To outline the approach to the external audit for 21/22.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The external audit plan in Appendix 1 sets out the approach to the Statement of Accounts audit and Value for Money conclusion. Grant Thornton will present the report and be available to ask questions at the meeting.
- 2.2 The key risks pertaining to the accounts are covered in pages 7 to 9 and are fairly standard for local authorities.
- 2.3 The auditor's plan is informed by a risk assessment and Appendix B includes our responses to their questions. The Audit and Risk Committee should consider

whether these responses are consistent with its understanding and whether there are any further comments it wishes to make.

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 No formal consultation is required.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 The Committee is asked to approve the report. The Committee could also ask for changes to our responses to the risk assessment questions in Appendix B.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Committee should note that audit fees are increasing to £82,420 from £77,420 in 21/22 but the Council has received additional funding from Government in 21/22 of £25,992. It appears as though this is one off funding only.

6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 The Audit and Risk Committee is responsible for receiving the reports of external audit, acting on any relevant matters and approving of the Statement of Accounts.

7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks/issues to the rights and freedoms of natural persons.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed because the report does not represent the introduction of a new policy or service or a change / review to an existing policy or service.

9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no community safety implications.

10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications.

11 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To ensure the Committee is aware of plans in place to ensure effective and timely closure of accounts.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 There are no background papers.

13 APPENDICES

13.1 Appendix A – Audit Plan 2021/22

13.2 Appendix B - Informing the audit risk assessment

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.