

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

26 April 2022

EXTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT 20/21

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
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Ward Councillors	N/A	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Audit and Risk Committee receives the External Auditors Annual Report and approves the responses to recommendations made

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The external auditors, Grant Thornton, have completed their audit work for 2020/21 and the results are attached in the Annual Report for the Committee to note.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Report provides a commentary on the results of the auditors work to the Council and external stakeholders, and highlights issues that the auditors wish to draw to the attention of the public.
- 2.2 The auditors reported their detailed findings from their financial statements audit work to the Council's Audit and Risk Committee in September. We received an unqualified opinion on the financial statements on 23 November 2021. There are no recommendations relating to this element of their work.
- 2.3 In September 2021, VFM work was ongoing and is now concluded as highlighted in the Audit report. The auditors assess our arrangements against three headings –

financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The report is positive about our arrangements and there is only one recommendation identified on page 10 relating to linking risks to corporate plan objectives. This is not a significant issue but the Committee is asked to approve the response.

- 2.4 The Committee has previously indicated that it would be useful for the external auditors to present their findings to Full Council. This can be discussed at the meeting.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 None required.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Audit and Risk committee is responsible for overseeing external audit matters so there are no alternative options.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Section 3 of Part 3 of the Councils Constitution state that it is the responsibility of the Audit and Risk Committee to receive reports from the external auditors.

7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A data protection impact assessment has not been completed as there are no data protection implications.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed because there are no service, policy or organisational changes being proposed.

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 This report presents the opinion from the external auditors and highlights some of the key matters, and asks the Audit and Risk Committee to approve the letter in line with their constitutional responsibility.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

13 APPENDICES

13.1 Appendix A – Annual Report