

<b>Subject</b>	<b>External Audit – Auditor’s Annual Report</b>	<b>Status</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to</b>	Audit & Governance Committee	<b>Date</b>	05 December 2024
<b>Report of</b>	Chief Finance Officer		
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	Not Required	Attached	No
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## **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present to Audit and Governance Committee the Auditor’s Annual Report, providing a summary of the findings and any key issues arising from the external auditor’s work on the Authority’s 2023/24 statement of accounts and value for money assessment.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
- a. **Receive and note the Auditor’s Annual Report attached at Appendix A.**

## **3. Link to Corporate Objectives**

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objectives:

### **Effective and Transparent Governance**

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

- 3.2 The reporting of audit findings is a key part of the overall framework of assurance and transparency.

## **4. Implications for the Corporate Risk Register**

- 4.1 The contents of this report do not link to a specific risk in the corporate risk register; the value for money assessment requires the auditor to give an opinion on the arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in our use of resources, which provides assurance as to how risks are managed particularly in respect of financial sustainability, and governance for the decision making and management of risk.

## **5. Background and Options**

- 5.1 The Auditor's Annual Report is issued to the Audit & Governance Committee to summarise the key findings from the external audit work for the year ended 31 March 2024 and covers both the financial statements audit and the value for money assessment.
- 5.2 The report is addressed to the Authority but is also intended to communicate the auditor's key findings to external stakeholders and members of the public. The points in the report summarise the detailed findings separately reported to the Committee at its September meeting and elsewhere on this agenda. The report is prepared in accordance with the National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice and will be published on the Authority's website alongside the accounts.
- 5.3 The report attached at Appendix A will be presented to the Committee by Richard Lee, Audit Director, KPMG.
- 5.4 The key messages included in the Auditor's Annual Report are that:
- a. The auditor issued their unqualified opinion on the Authority accounts on 20 November 2024.
  - b. The financial statements give a true and fair view of the Authority's financial performance and position for the year.
  - c. The auditor was satisfied that based on their work completed, the Authority has appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2024.
- 5.5 Members are asked to receive and note the report and welcome the positive findings therein.

## **6. Implications**

- 6.1 The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications

Financial	No additional financial implications; the costs of external audit are met from existing budgets.
Human Resources	None
ICT	None
Legal	None
Procurement	None

**Gillian Taberner**

**Assistant Director – Resources & Chief Finance Officer**

<b>Background Papers</b>	
<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
None	-