



**REPORT FROM: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**TO: ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**DATES: 27th JULY 2021**

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**EXTERNAL AUDIT  
INFORMING THE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE AUDIT PLAN 2020/21**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To provide the Accounts and Audit Committee with details of the Management's response to External Audit's enquiries on various governance and other related matters to inform a risk assessment of the Council's arrangements.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. It is recommended that the Accounts and Audit Committee review the responses provided by Management at **Appendix A** and consider whether they are consistent with their understanding of the Council's arrangements as they see them.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3. For the Committee to confirm or otherwise the arrangements as described by Management.

**ISSUE**

4. To inform the development of their Audit Plan in advance of the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts and assessing arrangements for securing value for money, Grant Thornton have requested that the Council's Management provide responses to a series of questions associated with matters to do with the Council's governance and other related arrangements. Management have considered these questions and provided responses. These are set out at **Appendix A**.
5. The Committee is being consulted by Grant Thornton who have a responsibility to make enquires of those charged with governance on these matters and is part of a two-way communication process intended to assist the External Auditors and the Committee in understanding matters relating to the audit.

6. The Committee is requested to review the Management responses and consider whether they are consistent with their understanding of the Council's arrangements as they see them. Any matters arising from this process may be taken into consideration by Grant Thornton as they prepared their Audit Plan.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Policy**

7. There are no policy implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

### **Financial**

8. There are no financial implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

### **Legal**

9. There are no legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

### **Risk Management**

10. There are no risk management implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

### **Health and Safety:**

11. There are no health and safety issues arising directly from the contents of this report.

### **Sustainability:**

12. There are no sustainability issues arising directly from the contents of this report.

### **Community Safety:**

13. There are no community safety issues arising from this report.

### **Equality and Diversity:**

14. There are no equality and diversity issues arising from this report.

## **APPENDICES**

Appendix A – Information the Risk Assessment: Questions raised by External Audit and responses provided by Management.