

Name of meeting: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
 5 July 2019

Title of report: Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for
 Kirklees Metropolitan Council

Purpose of report

The report updates Members on the final accounts and audit processes for 2018/19.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?	No
The Decision - Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	No
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance, IT and Transactional Services?	Eamonn Croston 27/6/2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Governance and Commissioning Support?	Julie Muscroft 27/6/2019
Cabinet member portfolio	Not applicable

Electoral wards affected: Not applicable

Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public or private: **Public**

GDPR: This report contains no information that falls within the scope of General Data Protection Regulations.

1. Summary

- 1.1 The councils external auditor Grant Thornton has asked that council officers complete the attached statement of risk "Informing the Audit Risk Assessment for Kirklees Metropolitan Council", which consists mainly of a schedule of issues entitled "Questions for Management"(by GT)
 "Management responses" (by KMC officers)

This is a different approach, as in previous years, for KPMG, the Chair of the committee signed a letter containing similar information .

1.2 These relate to the following topics;

Financial Reporting and Internal Control
Fraud Risk Assessment
Impact of Laws and Regulations
Going Concern- that the council as a “business” will continue to operate
Related Parties with whom the council has or records transactions
Estimated figures including in the accounts -with a specific detailed section on methods of accounting for categories of expenditure, such as property.

1.3 The auditors have asked that this committee affirm that they believe these assertions to be true (or have no reason to believe that they are untrue).
The document is attached.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 The Committee need to read the statements and assertions
- 2.2 If there are questions arising they can ask officers for an explanation.

3. Implications for the Council

- 3.1 **Working with People**
N/A
- 3.2 **Working with Partners**
N/A
- 3.3 **Placed based working**
N/A
- 3.4 **Improving Outcomes for Children**
N/A
- 3.5 **Reducing demand of services**
N/A
- 3.6 **Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**
These assertions related to the annual statement of accounts enable the appointed auditors to ensure that they are satisfied that the Council funds are also properly accounted for, and the financial position presented by the accounts is reasonable, true and fair.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The response was completed by the Service Director Finance, Service Director Legal, Governance & Commissioning, Head of Finance and Head of Risk & Internal Audit.

5. Next steps

The auditors will consider the responses, and use this in providing their opinion on the Audited Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement which will be presented to this Committee for approval on 26 July 2019.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

For Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to agree the risk assessment document, and for it to be formally submitted to Grant Thornton.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations

Not applicable

8. Contact officer

Martin Dearnley Head of Risk

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

None

10. Service Directors responsible

Eamonn Croston

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Julie Muscroft