

**Name of meeting:** Corporate Governance and Audit Committee  
 22 April 2022

**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 2021/22.

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 <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</a> ?	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 - 08/4/2022
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Governance and Commissioning Support?	Julie Muscroft - 11/4/2022
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 Council's external auditor Grant Thornton (GT) has asked that council officers complete the attached 'Informing the audit risk assessment for Kirklees Council 2021/22' (Appendix A), which consists mainly of a schedule of issues entitled:

"Question" (by GT)

"Management Response" (by KMC officers)

1.2 These relate to the following topics:

General Enquiries of Management  
Internal Control  
Fraud  
Fraud Risk Assessment  
Laws and Regulations  
Impact of Laws and Regulations  
Litigation and Claims  
Related Parties with whom the council has or records transactions  
Accounting Estimates  
Accounting Estimates - General Enquiries of Management

- 1.3 They have also requested that the council officers complete the attached 'Accounting estimate management questionnaire' (Appendix B). This covers the use of accounting estimates across key accounting areas including: Operational Land and Buildings valuation, Council Dwellings valuation, Investment Properties valuation and LGPS net liability valuation.
- 1.4 External Audit will use these assurance letters to support their overall opinion on the Audited Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement which will be presented to this Committee for approval on 30 September 2022.
- 1.5 The auditors want this committee to affirm that they believe these assertions to be true (or have no reason to believe that they are untrue). The documents are 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 **Climate Change & Air Quality**  
N/A
- 3.5 **Improving Outcomes for Children**  
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 responses were completed by the Service Director Finance, Service Director Legal, Governance & Commissioning, Head of Accountancy 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 30 September 2022.

**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**

James Anderson Head of Accountancy

**9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

None

**10. Service Directors responsible**

Eamonn Croston

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Julie Muscroft