

Name of meeting: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee
 12 May 2023

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 2022/23.

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 - 3/5/2023
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Governance and Commissioning Support?	Julie Muscroft - 3/5/2023
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 2022/23' (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
Going Concern
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, LGPS net liability valuation, Depreciation, PFI and Fair Value.

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 2023.

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 **Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees**

N/A

3.7 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 2023.

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

Julie Muscroft

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