

SUBJECT: EXTERNAL AUDIT ENQUIRIES 2024/25 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

LEAD OFFICER: LAURA SHIPLEY, FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform members of the External Auditor's requirement for the provision of information regarding the Council's approach to dealing with fraud, litigation, laws and regulations as part of their audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 and to allow members to comment on the response related to 'Those Charged with Governance'.

2. Enquiries for those charged with Governance

- 2.1 As part of the annual approach taken by the Council's external auditors, KPMG, they seek responses to a range of inquiries concerning the Council's approach and reporting arrangements for a number of key areas, in particular related to themes surrounding fraud, internal controls and risks together with some areas specific to the accounts such as related parties and estimates used in the accounts. The responses to these provided by officers will inform the approach taken by KPMG to the audit of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.
- 2.2 In addition to the enquiries made to officers KPMG also require a response to a number of enquiries relating to the arrangements for identifying, responding to and managing risks around fraud from 'those charged with governance'. Details of the specific inquiries and a proposed response to each is provided in Appendix A for members to review and comment on ahead of agreeing the final version for submission to KPMG.

3. Strategic Priorities

- 3.1 There are no significant impacts arising as a direct result of this report.

4. Organisational Impacts

4.1 Finance

There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report. The report reflects the way financial information is presented in the Council's Statement of Accounts

4.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no legal or procurement implications arising as a direct result of this report.

4.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

Due to the nature of the report, no specific Equality Impact Analysis is required.

5. Risk Implications

5.1 There are no specific risk implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendations

6.1 That the Audit Committee receive, and comment upon, the enquiries for those charged with governance for the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.

Key Decision	No
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Do the Exempt Information Categories Apply	No
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Call In and Urgency: Is the decision one to which Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?	No
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Does the report contain Appendices?	Yes
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If Yes, how many Appendices?	One
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List of Background Papers:	None
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