

Extract from Management Team's report

following receipt of Grant Thornton's Annual Audit Letter for 2021/22

Reported to Audit Committee on 16 January 2023

Extract from the report/ Management comments, which were endorsed by the Audit Committee are in *red italics*.

Governance

- 1 Consideration should be given to the following improvements to the risk management process:
 - Consider providing additional information within the Strategic Risk Register, including direction of travel, sources of risk and assurance, and dates of last and next review.

Consideration to be given to providing additional information in the Strategic Risk Register from April 2023.
 - Develop a training module for all staff to raise awareness of risk across the organisation.

Appropriate training for staff in order to raise awareness of risk across the organisation to be considered after the May 2023 election.

Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

- 1.1.1. The Council should consider the following improvements to its performance management framework:
 - Report a suite of key performance indicators to Cabinet every six months.

Management Team in liaison with Cabinet to consider how this might best be achieved.
 - Re-introduce the benchmarking practices used pre-pandemic to see how other councils provide services, with a view to introducing best practice and value for money.

Benchmarking can be resource intensive, that is not to say benchmarking is not a useful tool, adding insight and value when used

in the right context and will continue to look for opportunities to benchmark where and when it is determined it will be beneficial to do so when undertaking a review of a specific service area(s).

- The Procurement Strategy should be refreshed, informed by the National Procurement Strategy toolkit.

The nature, scale and size of procurement activity is relatively constant year on year. However, do acknowledge the need to revisit the Strategy when other more pressing priorities and work pressures allow and in recognition of the new procurement regime due to be implemented in 2023.

Financial sustainability

1.1.2 No improvement recommendations made under this criteria.