

AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Item AU 23/41 referred from Audit Committee of 25 September 2023

The report of the Management Team introduced the Auditors Annual Report (attached at Annex 1) prepared by Grant Thornton UK LLP in respect of the Borough Council's overall arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources. In introducing the report, a brief outline of the national context was provided.

Grant Thornton believed that there were two significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements to improve economy, efficiency and effectiveness. These related to procurement and performance management, and recommendations were made as to how this could be addressed. The responses of management were detailed at 1.3.4 and 1.3.9 of the report.

During discussion, Members raised concern regarding the Council's procurement resource and it was noted that the options for a procurement resource were being discussed and that the Procurement Strategy would be reviewed once the procurement resource issue had been resolved.

In addition, a number of improvement recommendations were also made and these were detailed in 1.4 of the report.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) the Auditor's Annual Report (attached at Annex 1) for 2022/23 be approved;
- (2) the key recommendations made in respect of 'performance management' and 'procurement' be noted and the management comments be endorsed;
- (3) the management comments to the improvement recommendations be noted and endorsed; and
- (4) the Audit Committee receive a progress report on the key recommendations made in respect of 'performance management' and 'procurement' at their next meeting.

***Referred to Cabinet**