

Policy and Resources Committee

Wednesday 11 September 2024

Minute Extract

29 EXTERNAL ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2022/23

The Director of Finance presented the report which provided for consideration recommendations of the Audit and Risk Management Committee in respect of External Audit Annual Audit Report 2022/23. Members were informed that the Audit and Risk Management Committee had responsibility for considering the external auditor's reports and opinions, relevant requirements of the International Standards on Auditing and any other reports to members with respect to the Accounts, including the Merseyside Pension Fund, and to monitor management action in response to issues raised by the external auditor. The Annual Audit Report was an essential element of the independent external audit process. The Council's external auditors (Grant Thornton) substantially completed the Council's main audit of the 2022-23 Statutory Accounts in December 2023, except for the Whole of Government Accounts which no longer meet the threshold for requiring external audit, and Value for Money as previously reported to the Audit and Risk Management Committee. The audit findings for the Statement of Accounts were reported to the Audit and Risk Management Committee in the form of the Audit Findings Report in December 2023. Members queried the Value for Money report and were advised that officers were expecting the draft report later in the year. Also discussed was commercial income and growth, Council investments, the new financial monitoring system and Wirral Growth Company.

Resolved – that Council be recommended to approve the publication of the External Audit Annual Audit Report 2022/23 and associated appendices.