

Full Council

12 March 2024



Report of:

Service Director: Finance

Title:

**Interim Auditors Annual Report on Bristol City Council
2021/22 and 2022/23**

Ward:

City Wide

Recommendations

That Full Council note Grant Thornton's Interim Auditors Annual Report for 2021/22 and 22/23, focusing on their value for money assessment, along with an action plan agreed by management.

Summary

Appendix 1 – Interim Auditors Annual Report on Bristol City Council.

Reporting on value for money is part of the External Auditors statutory reporting requirements. Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), the External Auditors are required to consider whether the council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources. They no longer give a binary qualified / unqualified VFM conclusion. Instead, auditors report in more detail on the overall arrangements, as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in the council's arrangements identified during the audit within the Auditor's Annual Report.

In relation to significant weaknesses, 4 key and 10 improvement recommendations were identified for the two year period reviewed (2021/22 and 2022/23). The report includes the management comments and proposed actions to address the required improvements.



Policy

None affected by this report. Grant Thornton are the Council's appointed external auditors. In carrying out their audit and inspection duties they must comply with the relevant statutory requirements, namely the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Consultation

1. Internal Director of Finance and Senior Officers and relevant officers across the council.
2. External - none

Background and Context

This report was considered by Audit Committee at their 24 July 2024 meeting. The Redmond Review of Local authority financial reporting and external audit recommends that annual reports are also presented at Full Council.

Other Options Considered

Not applicable.

Risk Assessment

Not necessary for this report.

Public Sector Equality Duties

Not necessary for this report.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

None arising from this report.

Financial

None arising from this report.

Land

Not applicable.

Personnel

Not Applicable.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Grant Thornton's Interim Annual Report on Bristol City Council 2021/22 and 2022/23

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None