

# Audit and Risk Committee

21 June 2021

|  |                                 |                                  |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Report title</b>                        | Annual External Audit Letter    |                                  |
| <b>Accountable director</b>                | Claire Nye, Director of Finance |                                  |
| <b>Originating service</b>                 | Strategic Finance               |                                  |
| <b>Accountable employee(s)</b>             | Emma Bland                      | Finance Business Partner         |
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| <b>Report to be/has been considered by</b> | None                            |                                  |

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## Recommendations for noting:

The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to note:

1. The Annual Audit Letter provided by Grant Thornton.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To update the Audit and Risk Committee on the key findings arising from the work carried out at the Council, its subsidiaries (the group) and the West Midlands Pension Fund for the year ended 31 March 2020.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Annually Grant Thornton provide a commentary on the results of their work to the Council and external stakeholders, and to highlight issues that they wish to draw to the attention of the public. A copy of the Annual Audit Letter is attached at Appendix A.

## **3.0 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The audit of the accounts and the Value for Money conclusion by the external auditors, are important elements of the accountability and transparency of the Council's finances.  
[EB/10062021/M]

## **4.0 Legal implications**

- 4.1 The Secretary of State makes the Accounts and Audit Regulations in exercise of powers conferred by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the 2019-2020 Statement of Accounts be produced in accordance with proper practice.

- 4.2 This is exemplified by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting which is published by CIPFA. These regulations also require that the accounts are approved by 30 August 2020 and published by 30 November 2020.

[TC/10062021/Y]

## **5.0 Equalities implications**

- 5.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **6.0 All other Implications**

- 6.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

## **7.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 7.1 There are no relevant preceding reports.

## **8.0 Appendices**

### **8.1 Annual External Audit Letter**