

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 20 MAY 2024**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES****EXTERNAL AUDIT OF THE 2022/23 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS,
ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS
- UPDATED****Purpose**

1. The purpose of this report is to present an updated Audit Findings Report from the external audit of the 2022/23 financial statements and to seek the Committee's approval of the draft letters of representation.
2. A supplementary report setting out the key findings is currently being prepared and this will be circulated to members and published on the County Council's website as soon as possible.

Background

3. The committee received an interim Audit Findings report at its last meeting on 26 January 2024. The report explained that the external audit had been substantially completed with the exception of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) where there were delays in providing the evidence required to support the valuations used in the Council's accounts.
4. The Council uses an external firm of valuers to undertake the valuations. The original valuations were provided on time and were used in the Council's draft accounts reported in June 2023. However, there have been delays during the audit in obtaining the required level of evidence to support the calculations for the sample requested by the auditor. Changes in staff at the external valuation firm has meant that there have been delays and valuations having had to be reperformed, including corrections to prior year valuations requiring a substantial amount of rework to the accounts. A new firm of external valuers have been contracted for the 2023/24 valuations.
5. This work has now been completed and the updated draft Statement of Accounts is currently being reviewed by the external auditor.

Recommendation

6. The Committee is asked to note the External Audit of the Financial Statement 2022-23 and consider issues raised in the auditor's Audit Findings Reports and approve the draft letters of representation.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

7. None.

Circulation Under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

8. None.

Background Papers

9. Report to the Corporate Governance Committee: External Audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and Pension Fund Accounts
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=434&MId=7410&Ver=4>

Appendices

None

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