



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2025

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

EXTERNAL AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT, AND EXTERNAL AUDIT OF THE 2024/25 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - Present the Auditor's Annual Report (Value for Money review) for 2024/25 for consideration,
 - Present the 2024/25 financial statements and letters of representation for approval,
 - Inform the Committee of the main areas of the financial statements, and
 - Report the key findings from the external audit of the accounts.
2. A supplementary report setting out the details above is currently being finalised to include the latest available audit updates. This will be circulated to members and published on the County Council's website as soon as it is available.

Background

3. Grant Thornton UK LLP, the County Council's external auditor, is required to communicate the results of the audit to those charged with governance prior to certifying the financial statements.
4. The financial statements comprise the accounts for the County Council, the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts for the Pension Fund. The draft 2024/25 accounts were published at the end of June 2025 and were then subject to external audit. The draft 2024/25 financial statements can be viewed on the Council's website via the following link:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-spending/payments-and-accounts/statement-of-accounts>
5. The Committee received copies of the 2024/25 external audit plans at its meetings in March 2025 (for Leicestershire County Council) and in June 2025 (for the Pension Fund).

6. Representatives from Grant Thornton UK LLP will attend the Committee meeting to communicate any significant findings and answer any questions.

Recommendation

7. The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

Background Papers

External Audit Plan 2024/25 (LCC), Corporate Governance Committee – 31 March 2025
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=434&MId=7960&Ver=4>

External Audit Plan 2024/25 (Pension Fund), Corporate Governance Committee – 23 June 2025. <https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=434&MId=7961&Ver=4>

Circulation Under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Equal Opportunities Implications

None.

Officers to Contact

Declan Keegan, Director of Corporate Resources,
Corporate Resources Department,
☎0116 305 7668 E-mail Declan.Keegan@leics.gov.uk

Simone Hines, Assistant Director (Finance, Strategic Property and Commissioning),
Corporate Resources Department,
☎0116 305 7066 E-mail Simone.Hines@leics.gov.uk