



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 23 JANUARY 2026

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

EXTERNAL AUDIT OF THE 2024/25 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND PENSION FUND ACCOUNTS - UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present an update on the external audit of the 2024/25 financial statements.
2. A supplementary report setting out the details above is currently being finalised. This will be circulated to members and published on the County Council's website as soon as it is available.

Background

3. 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>

4. Grant Thornton UK LLP are the County Council's external auditor. The Committee received an interim Audit Findings Report (AFR) at its last meeting on 24 November 2025. Delegated authority was approved by the Committee to the Director of Corporate Resources and Chairman of the Committee to approve and sign the financial statements and letters of representation for 2024/25, once the final outstanding items had been resolved.
5. The Committee received copies of the 2024/25 external audit plans at its meetings in March 2025 (County Council) and in June 2025 (Pension Fund).

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

External Auditor's Annual report and External Audit of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and Pension Fund Accounts - 24 November 2025.
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=434&MId=7963&Ver=4>

External Audit of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts – Audit Progress Report – 19 September 2025.

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=434&MId=7962&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>

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>

Terms of Reference, Corporate Governance Committee – 6 December 2024

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=434&MId=7724&Ver=4>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Equal Opportunities Implications

None.

Officers to Contact

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