

**Report for: GOVERNANCE, AUDIT,
RISK MANAGEMENT
and STANDARDS
COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting:	30 th November 2021
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT - Audit Progress Report
Responsible Officer:	Dawn Calvert, Director of Finance & Assurance
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – Audit Progress Report

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides the Governance, Audit, Risk Management and Standards Committee (GARMS) with an update on progress from our external auditors on the delivery of their responsibilities and highlights the potential risk of there being a significant weakness in VFM arrangements relating to an identified fraud.

Section 2 – Report

- 2.1 The attached report (Appendix 1) from the Council’s external auditors Mazars provides an update on the progress of their work on the Council’s financial Statements 2020/21 and their work on the Council’s arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- 2.2 The report also highlights an identified risk of significant weakness in the Council’s value for money arrangements.

Legal Implications

- 2.3 There are no legal implications to this report.

Financial Implications

- 2.4 There are no direct financial implications of this report.

Risk Management Implications

- 2.5 Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? **No**
- 2.6 Separate risk register in place? **No**
- 2.7 The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below. **n/a**
- 2.8 The following key risks should be taken into account when considering this report:

Risk Description	Mitigations	RAG Status
Risk of significant weakness in the Council’s VFM arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Internal audit review of system▪ Quantification of fraud loss▪ Independent review▪ Management response to recommendations made	Amber

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

- 2.9 Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? **No** as not relevant to this report.

Council Priorities

1. Improving the environment and addressing climate change
2. Tackling poverty and inequality
3. Building homes and infrastructure
4. Addressing health and social care inequality
5. Thriving economy

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer:

Signed on by the Chief Financial Officer

Dawn Calvert, Director of Finance & Assurance

Date: 24/11/21

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Susan Dixon, Head of Internal Audit & Corporate Anti-Fraud, 02084241420

Background Papers: None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

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|-----------------|----|
| 1. Consultation | NO |
| 2. Priorities | NO |