Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting: 20 March 2023

Title of Report: Informing the Audit Risk Assessment 2020/21

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader)

Lead Strategic Director: David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance)

Author: Carolyn Haynes

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Your Reference: FIN/CH

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to contribute towards the effective two-way communication between Plymouth City Council's external auditors and Plymouth City Council's Audit and Governance Committee, as 'those charged with governance'. The report covers some important areas of the auditor risk assessment where the auditors are required to make inquiries of the Audit and Governance Committee under auditing standards.

This report includes a series of questions on each of these areas and the responses that have been prepared by Plymouth City Council's management. The Audit and Governance Committee should consider whether these responses are consistent with its understanding and whether there are any further comments it wishes to make.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. Members are asked to note the contents of the report, to consider whether the management responses are consistent with their understanding and whether they have any further comments to make.

Reasons

Under International Standards on Auditing (UK), (ISA (UK)) auditors have specific responsibilities to communicate to the Audit and Governance Committee

Alternative options considered and rejected

None – The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 sets out the framework for audit of local authorities.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

External auditors provide assurance that the Council is delivering robust standards of public accountability and probity in the use of public funds, together with ensuring compliance with the Council's statutory obligations.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Local authorities are required to maintain an effective system of internal control that supports the achievement of their policies, aims and objectives whilst safeguarding and securing value for money from the public funds at their disposal.

Financial Risks:

The External Auditors have a responsibility to satisfy themselves that the Council has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None directly arising in relation to the decision.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

N/A

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Α	Informing the Audit Risk Assessment 2020-21								

Background papers:

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)								
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
	ı	2	3	4	5	6	7		

^{*}Add rows as required to box below

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Northey

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 06/03/2023

Cabinet Member approval:

Date approved: 06/03/2023