

RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) the external auditors' Audit Results Report be received; and**
- (b) the Deputy Chief Executive (s151 officer) be authorised to sign the letter of representation on behalf of the Council.**

Purpose

To receive a report from the Council's external auditors on the outcome of the audit of the 2023/24 financial statements and of the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources; and to approve the letter of representation on behalf of the Council.

The report will be presented by Mr Richard Walton of KPMG LLP.

For Members' information, the Audit Results Report is not yet available but will be circulated shortly, and the Letter of Representation will be circulated at the meeting.

Background

The Audit Results Report presents the auditors' findings from their audit of the financial statements, together with their conclusion on whether the Council has proper arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources ('the value for money conclusion').

The audit of the accounts and the value for money conclusion

The audit of the final accounts for 2023/24 has been completed and the Auditor has no matters to report in their report in respect of Value for Money.

Letter of representation

The Council is required to make certain representations to the auditors in connection with their audit of the statement of accounts. A copy of the letter will be provided at the meeting. The Audit and Standards Committee is required to confirm its agreement to the letter of representation being signed by the Deputy Chief Executive (s151 officer) on behalf of the Council and the Chairman of the Committee is required to countersign the letter as evidence that it was discussed by the Committee.

Conclusion

The appointed auditor is required to confirm that the Council's financial statements are presented, in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24. Also, that they give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2024 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended. Under International Standard on Auditing 260, the auditors are required to communicate to 'those charged with governance' any misstatements and omissions in the accounts (other than those that are clearly trivial) that have been adjusted and those that have been advised to officers but not adjusted for.