

8. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2019/20

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Governance Manager providing the parts of the report by the council's external auditors (EY) on the council's annual accounts which are relevant to the committee's remit.

The report recommended that the committee:

1. Note the terms of the 2019/20 Annual Audit Report which was reported to council on 29 September 2020 and that council referred the report to this committee in relation to the aspects of the wider-scope audit relevant to the committee's remit.
2. Specifically:
 - a) To note the auditors' unqualified audit opinion on the Council and Group financial statements
 - b) To note their "green" assessment of the Governance & Transparency element of the wider-scope audit and that they found the key features of good governance to be in place and operating effectively
 - c) To note their conclusion that the council responded quickly to ensure that governance arrangements were appropriate and operating effectively during the COVID-19 lockdown period
 - d) To note that there were no recommendations made requiring an action plan to be prepared in relation to any aspect of the accounts and statements
3. Note the summary of matters in the auditor' report which were relevant to the remit of this committee.
4. Note that due to the pandemic the auditors deferred some of their planned high-level Best Value plan/audit coverage until 2020/21.
5. Consider and identify any actions or recommendations made in relation to matters in the auditors' report which were relevant to the remit of this committee.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.