

---

# **Executive Decision External Audit Report 2023/24 (The Value for Money Report)**

Governance and Audit Committee

Date of meeting: 11 February 2025

Lead director/officer: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance

---

## **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Karen Linnett
- Author contact details: karen.linnett@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 To present the report by Grant Thornton on the External Audit Annual Report 2023/24 (The Value for Money report).

### **2. Recommended actions/decision**

- 2.1 The Governance & Audit Committee is recommended to note the report (attached at Appendix 1) to those charged with Governance and pass any comments to the External Auditor.

### **3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

- 3.1 The External Auditors are required under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy themselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- 3.2 The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) requires the External Auditor to report to those charged with Governance their commentary relating to proper arrangements.

### **4. Background and options with supporting evidence**

- 4.1 The external auditors, Grant Thornton evaluate against specified criteria under the headings below:
  - Financial Sustainability
  - Governance
  - Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness
- 4.2 The report includes notification of use of auditor's powers, there were none used during the reporting period.
- 4.3 The report lays out recommendations and provides updates on previous recommendations.
- 4.4 Further details are outlined in Appendix 1.

## **5. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

### 5.1 Financial implications

The report is exclusively concerned with financial issues.

Signed: Kirsty Cowell

Dated: 17 January 2025

### 5.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Signed: Kevin Carter

Dated: 20 January 2025

### 5.3 Equalities implications

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows: A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act. To advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, To foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

The Code specifies the principles and practices of accounting required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of a local authority. There are no direct equality implications arising from the report.

Signed: Surinder Singh

Dated: 20 January 2025

### 5.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications directly associated with this report.

Signed: Duncan Bell, Change Manager (Climate Emergency). Ext. 37 2249

Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

5.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

N/A

**6. Background information and other papers:**

None

**7. Summary of appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Auditor's Annual Report on Leicester City Council 2023/24

**8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

**9. Is this a "key decision"? If so, why?**

No