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# **External Audit Report 2024/25 (The Value for Money Report)**

**Governance and Audit Committee**

**Decision to be taken by: Governance & Audit Committee**

**Date of meeting: 17 February 2026**

**Lead director/officer: Amy Oliver, Director of Finance**

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## **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Claire Gavagan
- Author contact details: claire.gavagan@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 To present the report by Grant Thornton on the External Audit Annual Report 2024/25 (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: Claire Gavagan, Assistant Director of Finance

Dated: 6 February 2026

### **5.2 Legal implications**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Signed: Kevin Carter

Dated: 9 February 2026

### **5.3 Equalities implications**

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations when making decisions.

The External Audit Annual Report (Value for Money report) provides independent assurance on the Council's financial sustainability, governance and use of resources, but does not itself introduce changes to policies, services or staffing.

There are therefore no direct equality implications arising from this report. Any equality impacts from future decisions taken in response to the auditor's recommendations will be assessed at the appropriate time.

Signed: Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

Dated: 5 February 2026

### **5.4 Climate Emergency implications**

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

Signed: Phil Ball, Sustainability Officer. Ext. 37 2246

Dated: 9 February 2026

### **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 2024/25

**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