

Audit Findings Report 2020/21

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Purpose of the Report

1. This report introduces Grant Thornton UK LLP's Audit Findings Report for 2020/21.

Forward Plan

2. This report appeared on the Audit Committee Forward Plan with an anticipated Committee date of 2 December 2022. Following the need for additional Audit work, the Audit Committee was moved to 15th December 2022.

Public Interest

3. Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice, the Council's external auditors report on the group and Council's financial statements and the governance of South Somerset District Council.

Recommendation

4. That Audit Committee considers the matters identified in the report from the external auditors, and management's responses to the recommendations made by the auditors.

Background

5. Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice, the Council's external auditors (Grant Thornton) report on the financial statements and the governance of the Council. The review of these reports is included within the remit of this committee under its terms of reference as follows:

"To consider the reports of external audit including the Annual Audit Letter and seek assurance from management that action has been taken."



South Somerset District Council

“To review and approve the annual Statement of Accounts, external auditor’s opinion and reports to members and monitor management action in response to issues raised.”

- The Audit Findings Report summarises the key findings from the review undertaken by Grant Thornton.

Key Features of the Audit Findings Report

- This is the final audit findings report in respect of the 2020/21 statement of accounts. The interim audit findings report was presented to audit committee on 24 March 2022.
- The Grant Thornton report gives an opinion on the financial statements for 2020/21 and recommendations for management consideration. Management responses to those recommendations are also included in the report.
- The changes made from the interim audit findings report are highlighted in the text of the report.

Financial Implications

- The fees charged for the audit of the Statement of Accounts as per the audit plan are detailed in the table below. In addition, there are non-audit fees which are payable in respect of the certification of grant claims and returns for the year.

Fee Element	£
Fees payable with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	66,943
Additional Audit Fees subject to approval by PSAA	175,000
Estimated Total audit fees (TBC)	241,943
Fees payable with regard to certification of grant claims and returns for the year:	
Non-Audit Fee agreed upon procedures on the council’s Housing Benefit Subsidy Claim 2020-21	38,000
Total audit and non- audit fees (TBC)	279,943

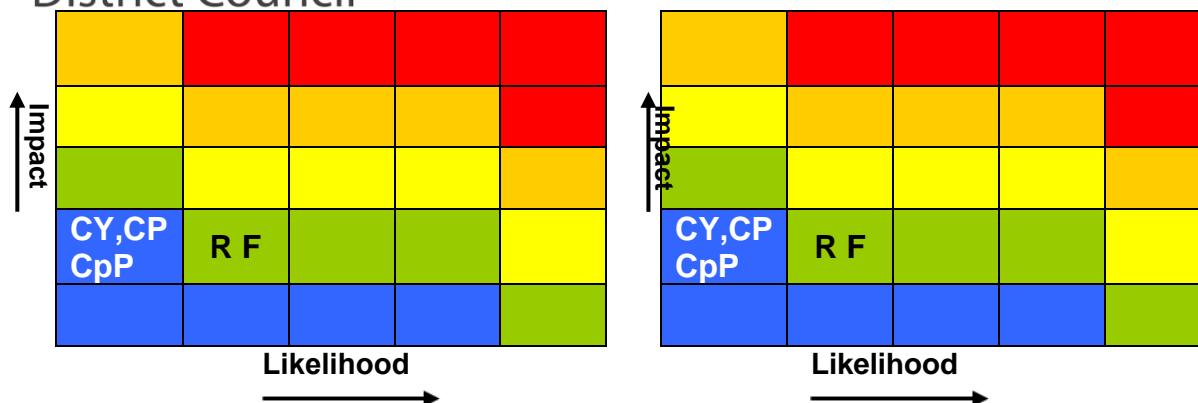
Risk Matrix

Risk Profile before officer recommendations

Risk Profile after officer recommendations



South Somerset District Council



Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan	Orange = Major impact and major probability
Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CP = Community Priorities	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
CY = Capacity	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability
F = Financial	

Council Plan Implications

- The Audit Findings Report is an integral part of the auditing of the Statement of Accounts which are closely linked to the Council Plan and maintaining financial resilience and effective resource planning is important to enable the council to continue to fund its priorities for the local community.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

- There are no carbon emissions or climate change implications in this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

- There are no equality or diversity implications

Privacy Impact Assessment

- There is no personal information included in this report.

Background Papers

- None