

External Audit Plan for South Somerset District Council for 2022/23

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Summary

1. The external audit 2022/23 for South Somerset District Council has yet to be completed. Appendix 1 sets out the external auditors' audit plan. The audit commenced on
2. External audit will report back to this committee any significant matters arising from the audit. Significant risks requiring audit consideration and procedures to address the likelihood of a material financial statement error have been identified as management override of controls, as well as the valuation and allocation of:
 - a) PPE revaluations
 - b) Group PPE
 - c) Investment property
 - d) Pension liabilities (including completeness)
3. External audit and the Council are endeavouring to get this audit completed in a single period between January and March 2024. This audit was due to commence much earlier than January 2024, however delays with the completion of the prior year impacted this.

Issue for Consideration / Recommendations

4. The Audit Committee is asked to:

- a) note the attached external auditors (Grant Thornton) Audit Plan for South Somerset District Council for 2022/23.

Financial and Risk Implications

5. There are no direct financial implications associated with noting this plan.

Council Plan Implications

6. It is important for Somerset Council to ensure that all audits are completed and an opinion provided for all legacy Councils. This ensures that the opening balances for the new Council are correct. This is particularly important for reserves and capital receipts to ensure that the Council can plan effectively.

Legal Implications

7. There are no direct legal implications of the recommendation.

HR Implications

8. There are no direct HR implications of the recommendation.

Equalities Implications

9. There are no equalities implications from this report.

Community Safety Implications

10. There are no community safety implications from noting this report.

Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

11. Somerset Council have declared both a Climate and Ecological Emergency. Through that, the Council has committed to working towards making the whole county, including our own estate and operations, 'Carbon Neutral' by 2030 and to take positive action to reverse the damage on our natural habitats by manufactured activity. We have also pledged to ensure that Somerset is resilient to, and prepared for, the effects of Climate Change. There are no implications from approving this report.

Health and Safety Implications

12. There are no health and safety implications from noting this report.

Social Value

13. There are no social value implications from noting this report.

Background

14. Somerset Council Audit Committee have to provide the governance overview and consideration of all legacy Councils outstanding Statement of Accounts. This will include all 2022/23 accounts for the former Somerset Council and the four district councils, of which one was South Somerset District Council.

Report

15. This report requests that the Audit Committee notes the external auditors (Grant Thornton) Audit Plan for the 2022/23 South Somerset District Council Accounts. This audit has already commenced this month. Beth Bowers from Grant Thornton will be attending the committee in person to go through the Audit Plan.

Background Papers

Appendices

- Appendix A – External Auditors Audit Plan for SSSDC 22/23