

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>AUDIT PANEL</b>
<b>Date:</b>	12 March 2024
<b>Executive Member/ Reporting Officer:</b>	Cllr Jacqueline North – First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) Ashley Hughes – Director of Resources
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	This report provides the Audit Panel with an update on the work undertaken by External Audit.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	Audit Panel are recommended to note the contents of the External Audit progress report.
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	The report supports the Council's Corporate Plan objectives.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	There are no direct policy implications flowing from the Statement of Accounts.
<b>Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer &amp; Chief Finance Officer)</b>	An audited statement of accounts gives assurance on the Council's finances.
<b>Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	The requirement to externally audit the Council's statement of accounts is set out in the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	The external audit provides verification of the financial statements.
<b>Access to Information:</b>	The report is to be considered in public.
<b>Background Information:</b>	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Stuart Munro, Senior Finance Manager.



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