

**Meeting of the Full Council
Meeting to be held on Thursday, 17 February 2022**

Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part A

Electoral Division affected:
N/A;

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

External Auditor's Annual Report on Lancashire County Council 2020/21
(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:
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Brief Summary

Attached at Appendix 'A' is the external Auditor's Annual Report on Lancashire County Council for the 2020/21 audit. The report has been produced in accordance with the National Audit Office Statutory Code of Audit Practice for Local Government Bodies.

Recommendation

Full Council is asked to note the findings in the Auditor's Annual Report on Lancashire County Council 2020/21 and the improvement recommendations made.

Detail

Under the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice, the county council's external auditors (Grant Thornton UK) are required to consider whether the authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The auditor is no longer required to give a binary qualified/unqualified Value for Money conclusion. Instead, auditors report in more detail on the authority's overall arrangements, as well as key recommendations on any significant weaknesses identified during the audit.

The external auditor's work has not identified any significant weaknesses in the county council's arrangements. A number of improvement recommendations have been made and are set out in the Auditor's Annual Report, provided at Appendix 'A'.

Paul Dossett, Partner, and Stuart Basnett, Audit Manager, Grant Thornton UK, will attend the meeting to present the report.

Consultations

The Auditor's Annual Report on Lancashire County Council 2020/21 (not including management's responses to the improvement recommendations) was considered by the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee at its meeting held on Monday 31 January 2022.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A