



## Audit Panel

**Report title:** Grant Thornton Audit Findings and Annual Reports 2021/22

**Date:** 06 December 2022

**Key decision:** No.

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Executive Director of Corporate Resources

### Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to:

- Note the draft Audit Findings Report 2021/22 from Grant Thornton following the external audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts and Pension Fund Accounts.
- Note the Auditor's Annual Report (VFM) 2021/22 from Grant Thornton
- Recommend delegation to the Chair of the Audit Panel, in conjunction with the Section 151 Officer, to agree the final reports for submission to Full Council.

**Lateness:** This report was not available for the original despatch date as officers were delayed by the ongoing audit queries and the need to incorporate the latest audit changes into the documents now being submitted.

**Urgency:** It is important for the Audit Panel to take the report now as it will enable the audited accounts to be approved by Full Council on 18 January 2022.

Where a report is received less than 5 clear days before the date of the meeting at which the matter is being considered, then under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100(b)(4) the Chair of the Committee can take the matter as a matter of urgency if she is satisfied that there are special circumstances requiring it to be treated as a matter of urgency. These special circumstances have to be specified in the minutes of the meeting.

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the draft Audit Findings Report 2021/22 from Grant Thornton, the Councils' external auditors, following their audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts and Pension Fund Accounts 2021/22.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is also to present the Auditor's Annual Report (VFM) 2021/22.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The Audit Panel is recommended to note the contents of the report and approve delegation to the Chair of the Audit Panel, in conjunction with the Section 151 Officer, to agree the final reports for submission to Full Council.

## **3. Policy Context**

- 3.1. The report is consistent with the Council's policy framework, supporting the priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy 2022-26. It contributes towards all Council priorities through effective management of finance.

## **4. Audit Progress Report**

- 4.1. Grant Thornton, the external auditors for London Borough of Lewisham Council and Pension Fund will present their draft Audit Findings Report for 2021/22.
- 4.2. The recommendations, subject to review and agreement by management, will then be added to the action tracker for progress, with their implementation to be reported on as part of the Audit Panel standing agenda item.
- 4.3. This is included within Appendix A.

## **5. Auditor's Annual Report 2021/22**

- 5.1. Grant Thornton, the external auditors for London Borough of Lewisham Council and Pension Fund will present the Annual Report for 2021/22. This covers the Value for Money (VFM) work required as part of the overall audit which was conducted by the auditors alongside completion of the Council's Statement of Accounts, Pension Fund Accounts and Annual Governance Statement audit.
- 5.2. The recommendations, which are accepted by management, will be added to the action tracker for progress, with their implementation to be reported on as part of the Audit Panel standing agenda item.
- 5.3. This is included within Appendix B.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

## **8. Equalities implications**

- 8.1. There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report.

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## **9. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 9.1. There are no climate change and environmental implications directly arising from this report.

## **10. Crime and disorder implications**

- 10.1. There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

## **11. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 11.1. There are no health and wellbeing implications directly arising from this report.

## **12. Report authors and contact**

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## **13. Appendices**

- 13.1. Appendix A – Draft Audit Findings for London Borough of Lewisham and London Borough of Lewisham Pension Fund 2021/22
- 13.2. Appendix B – Auditor’s Annual Report on London Borough of Lewisham Council 2021/22

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