

Grant Thornton Annual Report 2023/24

Date: 25th November 2024

Report of: Interim Assistant Chief Executive, Finance, Traded and Resources

Report to: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This covering report presents Grant Thornton's Interim Auditor's Annual Report on Leeds City Council for 2023/24.

The Annual Report gives the audit findings relating to the Council's value for money arrangements. The report does not identify any statutory recommendations, but it does make a number of key recommendations and a number of other recommendations for improvement.

The Annual Report is attached as Appendix 1.

Recommendations

- a) Members are asked to receive the Annual Auditor's Report presented by Grant Thornton and to note the recommendations which have been made.

What is this report about?

- 1 This report presents Grant Thornton's Annual Auditor's Report for 2023/24.
- 2 The Annual Report gives the outcome of the audit of the Council's value for money arrangements. The report does not identify any statutory recommendations, but it does make a number of key recommendations and a number of lower priority recommendations for improvement. The responses from officers to these recommendations are included in the report.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 3 The report outlines the conclusions from Grant Thornton's value for money audit work for 2023/24 and identifies some recommendations in relation to the Council's arrangements.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 4 The reports relate to the council's underlying financial governance arrangements rather than to the delivery of any specific services.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 5 The audit report does not raise any issues requiring consultation or engagement with the public or individual ward members.

What are the resource implications?

- 6 Grant Thornton's Annual Report outlines the results of their audit work to assess whether during 2023/24 the Council had in place proper arrangements for securing value for money.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 7 The Annual Report covers Grant Thornton's findings on the risks to the council's financial standing and on the arrangements which are in place to mitigate and manage those risks.

What are the legal implications?

- 8 The Annual Auditor's Report outlines how Grant Thornton have discharge their responsibilities as defined by in the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 9 The report is a retrospective one, which presents findings from Grant Thornton's 2023/24 audit work.

How will success be measured?

10 Grant Thornton will provide an update on the recommendations made in the report during their 2024/25 audit.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

11 Those recommendations which have not yet been implemented will be addressed by officers over the coming months.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 is Grant Thornton's Annual Auditor's Report for 2023/24.

Background papers

- None