

South Lakeland District Council
Audit Committee
Thursday, 25 July 2019
External Audit Opinion on Accounts – Audit Findings Report

Portfolio:	Not applicable
Report from:	Helen Smith – Finance Lead Specialist (Section 151 Officer)
Report Author:	Helen Smith - Finance Lead Specialist (Section 151 Officer)
Wards:	All wards
Forward Plan:	Not applicable

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 It is expected that the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, will produce a final audit opinion by the 31st July 2019.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that Audit Committee note and receive the Audit Findings Report for the year ended 31 March 2019.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 As noted in the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 report, the external audit process is currently being finalised. The external audit team are aiming to get the Audit Findings Report ready for distribution by the 22 July 2019 alongside the revised Statement of Accounts.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The unaudited statements were submitted to external audit and published on the Council's website on 30 May 2019. They were also open to scrutiny and comment by members of the public from 1 June 2019 to 12 July 2019 in line with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The report does not present any alternative options; there is a statutory deadline of 31 July 2019 for publication of the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts or as soon as reasonably practical after the receipt of the Audit Opinion.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

- 6.1 The external audit annual audit opinion is one of the key elements of the corporate governance giving independent assurance on the Council's financial performance and reporting.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 It is anticipated that no material audit adjustments will be proposed to the Council's reported financial position as set out in the Statement of Accounts.

Human Resources

- 7.2 There are no human resources implications of this report.

Legal

- 7.3 There are no legal implications of this report.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? / No
- 7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons:
This report relates to the external audit of the 2018/19 statement of accounts and has no direct health, social, economic or environmental impacts.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.6 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? / No
- 7.7 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons:
This report relates to the external audit of the 2018/19 statement of accounts and has no direct equality or diversity impacts.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
The risk is that the accounts are not authorised, audited and published by the statutory deadline.	The Council's reputation for good financial governance may be diminished.	External audit of accounts within statutory deadlines to provide Audit Committee with assurance that the accounts represent a true and fair view.

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Grant Thornton Audit Findings Report - Year ending 31 March 2019 (to follow)

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2018/19	https://tinyurl.com/y56kswxu

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent
Legal Services	10/07/19
Section 151 Officer	10/07/19

Signed off by	Date sent
Monitoring Officer	10/07/19
SMT	N/A

Circulated to	Date sent
Assistant Director	N/A
Human Resources Manager	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	N/A
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	25/7/19
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A