



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Name and date of Committee	<b>AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023</b>
Subject	<b>EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AND AUDIT PLAN FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Alaric Smith Executive Member for Finance Email: <a href="mailto:alaric.smith@westoxon.gov.uk">alaric.smith@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Madhu Richards, Director of Finance Email: <a href="mailto:madhu.richards@westoxon.gov.uk">madhu.richards@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Report author	Madhu Richards, Director of Finance Email: <a href="mailto:madhu.richards@westoxon.gov.uk">madhu.richards@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To provide Members with the Progress Report and the draft Audit Plan for year ending 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023.
Annexes	Annex A – Progress Report November 2023 Annex B – Draft Audit Plan for Year Ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023
Recommendation(s)	That the Audit and Governance Committee resolves to: I. Note the contents of the report and appendices.
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Putting Residents First</li><li>• A Good Quality of Life for All</li><li>• A Better Environment for People and Wildlife</li><li>• Responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency</li><li>• Working Together for West Oxfordshire</li></ul>
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	NO

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Just 1% of English councils published audited accounts by the statutory deadline.
- 1.2 One in 10 county councils in England is facing effective bankruptcy and district councils face similar challenges.
- 1.3 This environment is increasing the risk of financial irregularities making timely audits imperative.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1 The appendices to this report contain the Progress Report November 2023 and Draft Audit Plan for the year end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- 2.2 Peter Barber, from Grant Thornton, will be joining the meeting and presenting both reports.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 None.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The Audit and Governance Committee are requested to note the Progress Report November 2023 and the draft Audit Plan 2022-23.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 None.

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.1 None.

## **9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

None.

(END)