

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Report to: Audit Committee

Date: 27/11/2023

Subject: Annual Audit Report (Value for Money) 2021/22 and 2022/23

Report author: Christopher Harris, Head of Corporate Accountancy, Finance Systems and Tax

Responsible Director: Sukvinder Kalsi, Director of Finance

SUMMARY

This report presents the external auditor's Interim Annual Audit Report concerning the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (commonly known as "Value for Money" reporting). The report covers the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the contents of the "Interim Annual Auditor's Report on Hammersmith and Fulham Council 2021/22 and 2022/23" from Grant Thornton LLP (being the Council's external auditor) (Appendix 1).
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Wards Affected: All

H&F Values

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being ruthlessly financially efficient	The Annual Audit Report is a key tool in demonstrating how the Council attains of value for money.

Financial Impact

This report presents the external auditor's Value for Money assessment and is wholly of a financial nature.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications in relation to this report. The External Auditor is required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to verify that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

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Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None

Interim Annual Audit Report 2021/22 and 2022/23

1. The external auditor is required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to verify that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (commonly known as “value for money” or VFM arrangements).
2. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) requires the auditor to report to the Council commentary relating to those proper arrangements.
3. The Council’s external auditor is Grant Thornton LLP.
4. The attached report from Grant Thornton LLP presents both a summary and detailed analysis of their review of the Council’s VFM arrangements including key findings, recommendations and the Council’s response to those recommendations.

LIST OF APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Interim Annual Auditor’s Report on Hammersmith and Fulham Council 2021/22 and 2022/23.