

# Guildford Borough Council

Report to: Corporate Governance and Standards Committee

Date: 26 September 2024

Wards affected: n/a

Report of the Joint Strategic Director of Finance

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## 2023/24 External Audit Plan

### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 This document provides an overview of the planned scope and timing of the 2023/24 statutory audit of Guildford Borough Council for those charged with governance.

1.2 The scope of the audit is set in accordance with the Code and International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) (UK). The external auditors are responsible for forming and expressing an opinion on the Council and group's financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance (the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee); and considering whether there are sufficient arrangements in place at the Council and group for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources. Value for money relates to ensuring that resources are used efficiently in order to maximise the outcomes that can be achieved.

### 2. Recommendation to Committee:

2.1 That the Committee approves the 2023/24 External Audit Plan, as set

out in Appendix 1 to this report.

### **3. Reason for Recommendation:**

- 3.1 External audit is required to communicate its audit plan with those charged with governance (the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee)

### **4. Exemption from publication**

- 4.1. No.

### **5. Purpose of Report**

- 5.1 To communicate to those charged with governance the planned scope and timing of the statutory audit of Guildford Borough Council

### **6. Strategic Framework**

- 7.1 A key priority of the Council's Corporate Strategy is to ensure that we are a resilient and well-managed council. The external audit of the accounts gives an opinion on the financial position of the group and of the Authority as at 31 March 2024 and of the group's expenditure and income and the Authority's expenditure and income for the year then ended; on whether the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24; and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

### **8 Financial Implications**

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **9 Legal Implications**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## **10 Human Resource Implications**

10.1 There are no HR implications arising from this report

## **11 Background Papers**

None

## **12 Appendices**

Appendix 1: 2023/24 External Audit Plan