

Report to Audit & Risk Assurance Committee

18 November 2021

Subject:	Audit Findings Report 2019/20 – Action Plan Update
Director:	Director of Finance Simone Hines
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1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon the update regarding the 2019/20 Audit Findings Report Action Plan.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee members requested an update on the progress the Council has made against the Action Plan which Grant Thornton had produced as part of their Audit Findings Report for 2019/20. This report has been produced in response to that request.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

  	  	<p>The Council's financial status helps to underpin the Council's Corporate Plan and associated aspirations.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Appendix 1 attached shows the actions that were recommended by Grant Thornton in their 2019/20 Audit Findings Report and the progress against these actions.
- 4.2 The actions have been RAG rated in order to highlight where there are concerns. A number of actions have now been addressed with the main concerns being: -
- Progress on procuring a new Asset Management System has been delayed due to a lack of capacity within the Procurement Team as a result of sickness and vacancies. Temporary staff are in the process of being appointed in order to move this forward.
 - A number of the actions are dependent on the implementation of Oracle Fusion, particularly those around the IT Controls. The IT Controls actions are currently being reviewed and next steps are to be agreed with Grant Thornton.
- 4.3 The actions regarding the provision of information to Grant Thornton in respect of valuations are currently rated 'amber'. This is because it will not be possible to judge the sufficiency of this information until the 2020/21 audit has progressed further. In order to assist with this, an Asset Valuation Steering Group has been established to monitor the queries raised by Grant Thornton and ensure that accurate responses are being provided in a timely manner.

5 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Audit Findings Report Action Plan 2019/20

6 Background Papers

Grant Thornton Audit Findings Report 2019/20

