



Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024</b>
Subject	<b>2022/23 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT OPINION</b>
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Mike Evemy, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance Email: <a href="mailto:mike.evemy@cotswold.gov.uk">mike.evemy@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer Email: <a href="mailto:david.stanley@Cotswold.gov.uk">david.stanley@Cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Report author	Michelle Burge, Chief Accountant Email: <a href="mailto:michelle.burge@publicagroup.uk">michelle.burge@publicagroup.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To update the committee on the findings of the external audit of the 2022/23 financial year as the audit is concluded.  External audit expect to sign the accounts following this meeting, after the committee have had the opportunity to review the findings of their audit work.
Annexes	Annex A – 2022/23 Audit Findings Report Annex B – Extract from revised 2022/23 Statement of Accounts Annex C – Letter of Representation 2022/23
Recommendation(s)	That the Audit and Governance Committee resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Note the Audit Findings Report (Annex A) and extract from the revised 2022/23 Statement of Accounts (Annex B)</li><li>2. Recommend that the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 be approved.</li><li>3. Recommend that the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer signs the Letter of Representation (Annex C)</li></ol>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivering Good Services</li></ul>



COTSWOLD  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Draft Accounts were available for public inspection between 9th October and 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023. The accounts were also available on the Council website.



## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** The Audit and Governance Committee is responsible for formally approving the audited Statement of Accounts on behalf of the Council. The committee considered the draft unaudited 2022/23 Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- 1.2** Members will be aware of the wider delays with the audit of the accounts and receiving audit opinions across local government. Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors undertook their audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts between January and March 2024. The statutory deadline for completing the 2022/23 audit was the 30th September 2023.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1** The audit is now substantially complete and subject to a small number of outstanding items being resolved, Grant Thornton anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion.
- 2.2** Attached to this report at Annex A is the 2022/23 Audit Findings Report for Cotswold District Council. The report details the work undertaken by Grant Thornton as part of their formal audit of the accounts. It outlines the key findings and matters arising from the statutory audit process.
- 2.3** Grant Thornton have not identified any material errors or adjustments to the financial statements. No adjustments have been identified that result in an adjustment to the Council's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. One error was identified and corrected in the Collection Fund, NNDR relief awarded was understated due to a transcription error (outlined by Grant Thornton within appendix A of their report). This had an impact on a number of disclosures within the statement of accounts but has no overall impact on the general fund, the Council's net assets or 2023/24 outturn position. A small number of other adjustments have been made to improve the presentation of the financial statements.
- 2.4** Annex B to this report includes extracts of the revised Statement of Accounts to highlight and explain the audit adjustments made to the primary statements.
- 2.5** There are three recommendations included in Appendix B of the Audit Findings Report (two Medium (limited impact on the financial statements) and one Low (best practice)). Management has provided responses as set out on pages 26.
- 2.6** Once approved, the full audited statements will be published on the Council's website and notice advertised of the completion of the audit.
- 2.7** Grant Thornton's work on the Value for Money (VFM) conclusion in respect of the Council's arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2023 is complete and was presented to the January 2024 Audit & Governance Committee. Grant Thornton was satisfied that the



Council had made proper arrangements in securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.

### **3. THE LETTER OF REPRESENTATION**

- 3.1 To complete the audit process the Council is required to submit a letter of representation to Grant Thornton to complement the financial statements and to outline the areas considered in stating the financial statement give a 'true and fair view' in accordance with International Financing Reporting Standards and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 and applicable law.
- 3.2 A draft copy of the letter included as Annex C to this report.
- 3.3 The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer are asked to sign the Letter of Representation under recommendation (3) to this report. Grant Thornton is not able to issue their opinion on the accounts until the letter of representation has been received.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 None

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council is required to approve the Statement of Accounts to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

### **7. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 If the Audit and Governance Committee do not approve the audited Statement of Accounts, the Council will not comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

### **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.1 None

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

- 9.1 None

### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 None



**COTSWOLD**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

(END)