

REPORT TO: AUDIT COMMITTEE

DATE: 3 JULY 2023

REPORT TITLE: AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2021/22

**DIRECTOR: STEPHEN FITZGERALD, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF
INVESTMENT AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

AUTHOR: GRANT THORNTON, EXTERNAL AUDITORS

Purpose of Report

- 1 External Auditors are required to report their commentary on the Combined Authority's work.

Recommendation

- To approve the External Auditors (Grant Thornton) Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2022.

Background / Issues for Consideration

- 2 Grant Thornton are the appointed external auditors for the Authority. They carry out their audit work in accordance with the National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice, which reflects the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The auditor's key responsibilities are to:

- give an opinion on the Authority's financial statements and
- assess the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the value for money conclusion)

- 2.1 The Annual Report is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Consultation

- 3 The Annual Report is being presented to the Audit Committee for comment.

- 3.1 The following items are covered in the report:

- Financial Stability;
- Governance;
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: External Auditors (Grant Thornton) Annual Report for year ended 31 March 2022.

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

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