

## City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committee(s):</b> Audit and Risk Committee – for noting	<b>Dated:</b> 04/11/2024
<b>Subject:</b> External Auditor’s Annual Report 2023-24 – City Fund	<b>Public</b>  For noting
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	n/a
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	n/a
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	n/a
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	n/a
<b>Report of:</b> The Chamberlain	
<b>Report author:</b> Iain Jenkins, Chief Accountant	

### Summary

The external auditor’s Annual Audit Report summarises all of the work that Grant Thornton have undertaken in relation to the City Fund during 2023-24. The report includes their commentary on the City Fund’s Value for Money (VfM) arrangements.

### Recommendation

The Audit and Risk Management Committee is asked to:

- **Consider** the Auditor’s Annual Audit Report 2023-24 as set out in Appendix 1

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The 2023-24 Statement of Accounts for the City Fund have been audited by Grant Thornton. This also includes the accounts for the Pension Fund. Grant Thornton’s Audit Findings Report was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee at the meeting on 23 September 2024.
2. Finance Committee approved the 2023-24 Statement of Accounts for the City Fund on 24 September 2024 and agreed that the Financial Statements be signed by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee on behalf of the Court of Common Council.

3. The audit of the financial statements was subsequently concluded, and Grant Thornton issued their unqualified audit opinion on 17 October 2024. The final audited accounts for the City Fund, including the Pension Fund accounts, have been published and are available to view on the Corporation's website here: [link](#)

### **Current Position**

4. At the time of presenting the external auditor's Audit Findings Report to the Committee in September, the work on Value for Money had yet to be completed. The VfM work has since been concluded and is set out within the Annual Audit Report at Appendix 1.
5. The auditors are required to report their commentary on the City Fund's arrangements under specified criteria in relation to VfM –
  - a. Financial sustainability
  - b. Governance
  - c. Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness (the 3 Es)
6. No significant risks or weaknesses have been identified against either of these areas by the external auditor, although some improvement recommendations have been made. These recommendations have been included within the Auditor's Annual Report together with management responses from the City Fund.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

Strategic implications – There are no specific links to the Corporate Plan. However, the accounts assist the City Corporation in maintaining a clear and transparent dialogue regarding its activities with residents and other stakeholders

Financial implications – Recommendations to improve Value for Money scrutiny are responded to within Appendix 1

Resource implications – None

Legal implications – None

Risk implications – Recommendations relating to risk management are responded to within Appendix 1.

Equalities implications – None

Climate implications – None

Security implications – None

### **Conclusion**

7. The audit of the City Fund and Pension Fund Statement of Accounts for 2023-24 has concluded, with an unqualified opinion being issued by the external auditor. The auditor's assessment for the City Fund's VfM arrangements has also taken

place. No significant risks or weaknesses have been identified, but improvement recommendations have been raised.

8. The audit of the City Fund's Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) submission is still to take place, after which point Grant Thornton will be able to issue their audit certificate to formally close their work for 2023-24.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – City Fund 2023-24 Auditor's Annual Report

## **Background Papers**

Audit and Risk Management Committee 23 September 2024 - City Fund and Pension Fund, Audit Findings Update

### **Iain Jenkins**

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