

Audit Committee

29 July 2021



Title	Establishment of the Value for Money Working Group
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	Terry Collier Chief Finance Officer
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	Not applicable
Corporate Priority	This item is not in the current list of Corporate Priorities but still requires a Committee decision
Recommendations	Committee is asked to: Agree to establish the Value Working Group with the members and remit as set out in this report.
Reason for Recommendation	Under the previous governance system the Value for Money Working Group played an important role in focusing the Council's efforts in resolving matters to resolve the 2017-18 Value for Money Opinion

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The Council remains in dialogue with its outgoing (it is the Public Sector Auditor Appointments (PSAA) which appoints and changes the Council's external auditor) external auditors KPMG to ensure the auditors issue a Value for Money Opinion for 2017-18, This in turn would enable the Auditors to sign off the audited Statement of Accounts, and for the incoming Auditors to then start work on auditing the draft Statements of Accounts for 2018-19 to 2020-21.
- 1.2 The Leader's Working Group met regularly between July 2020 and May 2021 to coordinate the Council's response. This included meeting with KPMG.
- 1.3 Given that matters have not yet been resolved with KPMG it is proposed that the Working Group be re-established to continue until the outstanding Value for Money Opinion is issued.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Committee System Working Group is established for 2021-22 with the membership and remit as follows:

Membership

3. Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee plus two other members of the Committee.

3.1 No other considerations have been identified.

4. Equality and Diversity

4.1 The recommended proposal will allow all councillors to provide feedback on the new arrangements.

Background papers: There are none.