

Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

2pm, Monday, 31 October 2022

Present

Councillors Campbell (Convener), Bandel, Caldwell (substituting for Younie), Faccenda, Jenkinson, McVey, Mowat, Munro (substituting for Rust), O'Neill (substituting for Miller) and Thornley.

1. The City of Edinburgh Council – 2021/22 Annual Audit Report to the Council and the Controller of Audit

The City of Edinburgh Council – 2021/22 Annual Audit Report to the Council and the Controller of Audit was presented to Committee for scrutiny. The report summarised the principal findings arising from the Council's 2021/22 external audit. While primarily focused on the review of the financial statements, the wider scope aspects of the audit include consideration of the Council's financial sustainability, financial management, governance and transparency and arrangements to secure and demonstrate value for money. Following the publication of the Council's Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) in November 2020, the report assessed progress in implementing its recommendations.

Decision

- 1) To note that, following the audit process, an unqualified audit opinion would be issued on the Council's annual accounts for 2021/22.
- 2) To refer the audited annual accounts to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval and thereafter to Council for noting.
- 3) To note that, following approval by the Finance and Resources Committee, the audited annual accounts would be signed and submitted to the external auditor.
- 4) To note the external auditor's assessment of the four dimensions of the wider scope audit and implementation of the recommendations contained within the Council's Best Value Assurance Report and that progress in the delivery of the resulting improvement actions set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the auditor's report would be reported to the Committee during the coming year.
- 5) To note that, once approved, a summarised version of the annual accounts would also be published on the Council's website by 30 November 2022.
- 6) To agree provide a briefing note with details on the variances in figures reported for Non-Domestic Rates receipts from the national pool within the report.
- 7) To agree to arrange a Risk Management Framework workshop for members.

8) To agree to provide a briefing note on the £1 million expenditure in relation to Leith Links - Common Good.

(Reference – report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services, submitted.)