



Title of report: 2024/25 Updated External Audit Findings Report

Meeting: Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting date: Tuesday 28 October 2025

Report by: Director of Finance

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

All Wards

Purpose

To consider the final, updated external audit findings report for the year ended 31 March 2025. This report was considered by the Committee at the September meeting. All findings remain unchanged with the exception of the fee analysis for 2024/25 which includes final fee variations.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **The Committee notes the updated Audit Findings Report and fee variations for 2024/25.**

Alternative options

1. (None; the audit of the council's statutory accounts is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended).

Key considerations

2. The updated external audit findings report for 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 1. The report was first considered by the Committee at the meeting held on 25 September 2025. All findings remain unchanged with the exception of the fee analysis noted from page 60 of the report.
3. The proposed fee variations for 2024/25 represent additional work completed in respect of IFRS 16: Leases and investigation work in respect of capital programme governance

arrangements. The proposed variations will be subject to review by the Public Sector Audit Appointments for final determination.

Community impact

4. In accordance with the code of corporate governance to support effective accountability the council is committed to reporting on actions completed and outcomes achieved, and ensuring stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the council plans and carries out its activities in a transparent manner. External audit contributes to effective accountability.

Environmental impact

5. Herefordshire Council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.
6. Whilst this is a decision on back-office functions and will have minimal environmental impacts, consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the Council's Environmental Policy.

Equality duty

7. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to consider how it can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that it is paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.
8. The mandatory equality impact screening checklist has been completed for this activity and it has been found to have no impact for equality.

Resource implications

9. The external audit fee detail is provided in Appendix 1. Grant Thornton agree the fee payable through Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) who manage the external audit.

Legal implications

10. Under Part 3 paragraph 5.11 of the Constitution, it is a function of the Audit and Governance Committee to review and agree the External Auditor's Plan.

Risk management

11. The council's management is responsible for the identification, assessment, management and monitoring of risk, and for developing, operating and monitoring the system of internal control. The external audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness, however, if external audit identify any control weaknesses, these are reported. The external audit work continues in this area, the audit findings report attached at Appendix 1 details the conclusions on work completed.

Consultees

12. None.

Appendices

Appendix 1: The Audit Findings Report for Herefordshire Council year ended 31 March 2025.

Background papers

None identified.