



Audit Committee	Wednesday, 24 January 2024	Matter for Information and Decision
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Report Title: **Interim Annual Report for 2022/23 and Key Recommendation 2023/24**

Report Author(s): **Grant Patterson (External Audit - Director, Grant Thornton)
Bev Bull, (Head of Finance / Interim Section 151 Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To present the External Auditors Interim Annual Report for 2022/23 and an Immediate Annual Report for 2023/24 Key Recommendation.
Report Summary:	The Annual Report details the auditors' commentary on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
Recommendation(s):	That the committee: 1) Notes the content of the report and appendices; and 2) Recommends the report and appendices to be noted by Full Council.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2690 sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Bev Bull (Head of Finance / Interim Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2649 bev.bull@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	

Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interim Annual Auditors Report (2022/23) 2. Immediate Annual Report for 2023/24 Key Recommendation

1. Interim Annual Report for 2022/23

- 1.1. The 2022-23 Annual Auditor's Report does not identify any significant weaknesses within the Council's arrangements. However, seven new improvements recommendations were made in the areas of financial sustainability reflecting the growing challenges in that area. The Council has made progress in addressing recommendations from the prior year but five are being carried forward into 2023-24.

2. Key Recommendation Report for 2023/24

- 2.1. In line with the requirements of the NAO's Code of Audit practice and due to the increasing financial challenges that the Council is facing within 2023-24 and the deterioration in its financial position and the reported risk that it could run out of money in 2025/26 unless further significant and challenging savings are achieved the auditor's have issued an immediate report highlighting a significant weakness in financial sustainability arrangements and have made a key recommendation as set out in the report.