

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Head of Finance, ICT and Procurement
to Audit and Governance Panel
of 28 June 2023**

Subject: External Audit Reports – Progress to 31 March 2023

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress that the Council is making in relation to external audit improvement actions.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel scrutinises the progress against the Council’s external audit improvement actions as presented in this report

3. Background

3.1 The Final Report on the 2021/22 Audit was presented to the Audit and Governance Panel (AGP) of 23 November 2022 (Special). This report covers progress against the two recommended improvement actions from that report.

3.2 The 2021/22 Audit Dimensions and Best Value Audit report to Members was presented to the AGP of 28 June 2022 (Special). There were no new recommended improvement actions arising from that report. Progress against the External Audit actions resulting from the October 2021 Best Value Assurance report were presented to the Audit and Governance Panel on 9 November 2022.

3.3 All External Audit actions from previous External Audit reports on the financial statement of the Council up to and including the 2020/21 financial statements are now complete.

4. Proposals

4.1 Progress to 31 March 2023 is summarised below:

Status of External Audit Actions as at 31 March 2023	Completed since 31 Dec 2022	On Target	Not on Target	Total
Annual Report on 2021/22 Audit – Nov 22	1	-	1	2
Overall	1	-	1	2

4.2 During the reporting period, one actions was completed, one action is now overdue due to ongoing National discussions. Until these discussions are completed the action will remain outstanding. It is therefore requested that the due date for this action be delayed until 31 December 2023 to allow the discussions to conclude. The latest update against the one outstanding action is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 None.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 None.

8. Risk

8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations*

8.2.1 Rejecting the recommendations may impact on the reputation of the Council.

9. Equalities

9.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

- 12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 4 of the Council Plan: Efficient and effective enabling services.

13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.
- 13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers **Report to Audit and Governance Panel of 22 June 2022 - [External Audit Reports – Progress to 31 March 2022](#)**


Report to Audit and Governance Panel of 7 September 2022 – [Best Value Action Plan 2021/22 – Update](#)

Report to Audit and Governance Panel of 9 November 2022 – [Best Value Action Plan 2021/22 - Update](#)

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External Audit Reports - Showing actions still to be completed

Report Title	Action	Due Date	Managed By	Latest Note	SAC Status	Progress	Agreed Revisions	Completed Date
EA2021/22 Final report on the 2021/22 Audit	<p>Recommendation: The Council should revisit its UEL policy to consider whether alternative UEL's should be set for different types of assets.</p> <p>Management Response: Useful Economic Lives for Infrastructure Assets will be considered alongside national guidance and initiatives on this matter.</p>	31-Mar-2023	Tim Baulk; Tom Simpson	13-Jun-2023 National position remains unchanged at present - Statutory override in place for 2022-23. Watching brief on national developments currently in place. Action needs to be delayed for a further 6 months to allow further national discussions to take place.		10%		