

DECISION-MAKER:	AUDIT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	CIPFA RESILIENCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW – PROGRESS UPDATE		
DATE OF DECISION:	11 NOVEMBER 2024		
REPORT OF:	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENABLING SERVICES & S151 OFFICER		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title:	Executive Director Enabling Services & S151 Officer	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
NOT APPLICABLE	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
In May 2023 the Council commissioned the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) to undertake a Resilience and Financial Management review. This report provides an update to the Committee on progress in implementing the recommendations of the CIPFA review.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	To note the Council's progress in implementing the recommendations of the CIPFA review.
(ii)	To note the next steps to implement the remainder of the recommendations of the review as part of the Reshaping Financial Management programme.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	This is a progress update for noting by the Committee at this stage. As the implementation of the recommendations progresses, further update reports will be provided to the Committee.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	The alternative would be not to update and keep the Audit Committee appraised of progress. This was rejected because it does not provide transparency nor the opportunity to demonstrate the significant progress made.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
CONSULTATION	
3.	Not applicable.

	RESILIENCE AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW
4.	The Resilience and Financial Management Review covered three elements i) the financial resilience of the Council and what steps could be taken to improve resilience ii) the financial management arrangements the council has in place and opportunities for improvement and iii) benchmarking and how the council's spend compares to statistical neighbours.
	REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS
5.	The review's recommendations are set out in Appendix 1 and this includes an assessment of the council's progress to date in implementing the recommendations. This shows that significant progress has already been made both in stabilising the council's financial position and improving financial management.
6.	Further work is planned on improving financial management across the organisation and within the finance function. This is being delivered as part of the Reshaping Financial Management programme. Further updates on the programme will be provided as it progresses.
7.	Similarly, there is further work to do to build the financial resilience of the council including removing the £40M structural deficit that necessitated the application for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS). This will require the rebuilding of reserves, delivering Transformation Savings and setting in train a growth and development plan that will increase the local tax base.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
8.	Not applicable
<u>Property/Other</u>	
9.	Note applicable
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
10.	
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
11.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
12.	The risk management implications have been taken into consideration in developing and implementing the recommendations of the CIPFA Review and in designing the Reshaping Financial Management programme.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
13.	Not applicable.

KEY DECISION?	Yes/No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	Progress Update
2.	

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	CIPFA Resilience and Financial Management Review (May 2023)
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
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Privacy Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
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Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1. None	