

 Brent	Full Council 23 February 2023
	Report from the Chief Executive
Auditor's Annual Report on the London Borough of Brent	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Council
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix A: Auditor's Annual Report on the London Borough of Brent
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Minesh Patel Corporate Director of Finance & Resources 020 8937 6528 Email: Minesh.Patel@brent.gov.uk Rav Jassar Deputy Director of Finance 020 8937 1487 Email: Ravinder.Jassar@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report presents the Council's external auditor's annual report on value for money as part of the 2021/22 audit of the year end accounts. It also sets out their key recommendations.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 To note the report and recommendations.

3.0 Background

3.1 The National Audit Office introduced a new Code of Audit Practice for 2020/21 which revised the approach to the audit of Value for Money (VFM).

There are three main changes:

- A new set of key criteria, covering financial sustainability, governance and improvements in economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- More extensive reporting, providing commentary on arrangements across all key criteria.
- Auditors to arrive at a more sophisticated judgement on performance, as well recommendations.

3.2 As part of the auditors work, no significant weaknesses were identified in the Council's VFM arrangements and only improvement recommendations have been made. In summary, there are two Financial Sustainability recommendations, three Governance recommendations and three economy, efficiency and effectiveness recommendations.

3.3 All of the recommendations have been accepted and management responses have been provided. Overall, this is an improvement compared to last year where improvement recommendations have reduced from 14 to 8.

3.4 The full report is attached at Appendix A.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising as result of this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising as result of this report.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 Human Resources

8.1 Not applicable.

Report sign off:

Minesh Patel
Director of Finance