



Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Date	24 January 2023
Report title	Annual Accounts 2021/22 for West Midlands Combined Authority
Accountable Chief Executive	Laura Shoaf, Chief Executive Email: Laura.Shoaf@wmca.org.uk Tel: (0121) 214 7200
Accountable Employee	Linda Horne, Executive Director of Finance and Business Hub Email: Linda.Horne@wmca.org.uk Tel: (0121) 214 7508
Report has been considered by	N/A

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Approve the annual accounts.
- (2) Note the Audit Findings Report presented by Grant Thornton.
- (3) Note that Grant Thornton propose to issue an unqualified audit opinion for the accounts.
- (4) Approve the signing of the letter of representation by the Executive Director of Finance and Business as set out in Appendix F of the Audit Findings Report.
- (5) Approve that the Chair of Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee be authorised to sign off any further changes required to the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 prior to publication.
- (6) Subject to no further issues being raised by Grant Thornton, approve that the Mayor and the Executive Director of the Finance and Business Hub be authorised to sign the accounts on behalf of WMCA.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report has been prepared for the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee to approve the annual accounts of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) for the financial year ended 31 March 2022.
- 1.2 The audit has been completed without any significant issues to report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The draft accounts for 2021/22 were shared with members of the committee when the audit process commenced on 27 June 2022.
- 2.2 A detailed briefing and review of the annual accounts was undertaken with the Chair of Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee and WMCA Finance to provide assurance that the accounts presented reflected the activities for the 2021/22 financial year.
- 2.3 The audit process has now concluded and the following are attached for review and approval:
 - i) West Midlands Combined Authority financial report 2021/22
 - ii) Grant Thornton Audit Findings Report (including Letter of Representation - Appendix F)

3.0 Annual Accounts

- 3.1 The West Midlands Combined Authority Board has received regular financial monitoring updates throughout 2021/22. The final outturn position for 2021/22 was reported to West Midlands Combined Authority Board on 10 June 2022.
- 3.2 The audit process has now concluded, and Grant Thornton will present their findings to the committee with their proposal to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts. The Narrative Report, Annual Governance Statement and consideration of events after the Balance Sheet date will need to cover the period up to the date of publication and will therefore need to be kept under review until the accounts are formally published. Authority is therefore sought for approval of the final updated Narrative Report, Annual Governance Statement and any required amendments to the accounts for 2021/22 to be delegated to the Chair of Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The financial implications are covered within the body of this report and the attached annual accounts reflect the results for the year ended 31 March 2022.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Production of these accounts is a statutory requirement.

6.0 Equalities Implications

6.1 Alternative formats for these accounts are available upon request.

7.0 Inclusive Growth Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 Geographical Area of Report's Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

9.0 Other Implications

9.1 Not applicable.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 West Midlands Combined Authority financial report 2021/22

10.2 Grant Thornton The Audit Findings Report for West Midlands Combined Authority – Year ended 31 March 2022