7. ADDENDUM

The council’s External Auditors have now advised us that they anticipate issuing a qualified “except for” value for money conclusion for the year ending 31st of March 2018. Their concerns centre on the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge team finding that the pace of change has remained too slow, with progress being hampered by a number of issues, including the lack of permanent senior capacity and the need to develop a coherent approach to corporate planning, financial planning and strategic risk.

In addition the External Auditors have made a statutory recommendation to the council under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. In particular External Audit consider that the council needs to make demonstrable progress in relation to the 8 recommendations that were made by the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge team in their letter of the 16th of March 2018. There is particular emphasis on those recommendations relating to the implementation of the new senior management structure and developing the leadership potential of the new senior team.

The council shall ensure that it fully complies with its duties under Section 24 of the said Act.