

OPEN

Audit and Governance Committee

27th July 2023

Audit Progress Report - July 2023

Report of: Alex Thompson, Director of Finance and Customer Services – S.151 Officer

Report Reference No: AG/16/21-22

Ward(s) Affected: All

Purpose of Report

- 1 The Audit Progress Report summarises the progress to date on the 2020/21, 2021/22 Audits as well as the forthcoming audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts. The report will be presented to the Committee by Mazars, the Council's external auditors.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Audit Progress Report summarises the progress to date on the key areas of the 2020/21 and 2021/22 audit work and the areas of work that is still outstanding at the time of this meeting and the timelines as to when the accounts for those years will be complete.
- 3 The Audit Progress Report also provides an update on the 2022/23 Audit, the reasons for the delay in commencing the audit and when the final report will be reported to Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Audit and Governance Committee is recommended:

1. To consider the Audit Progress Report of Mazars dated July 2023, including an update on the audit of accounts for the years ending 31st March 2021 and 31st March 2022, and the plan for the audit of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023

Background

- 4 The auditors are responsible for giving an opinion on:
- Whether the accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the the Council and the Group and of the Council's and the Group's expenditure and income for each financial year ending 31st March;
 - Whether they have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

Consultation and Engagement

- 5 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (amendment) Regulations 2022 (SI 2021/263) the accounts were made available for public inspection between 1st June to 12th July 2023.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 6 The appointed auditors are required to report to those charged with governance. The Audit Progress Report presents the current position on the audit work to date for both 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years. The report also details the plans for the forthcoming audit of the 2022/23 accounts.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 7 There are no legal implications identified.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 8 As covered in the report.

Policy

- 9 There are no Policy implications identified.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 10 There are no Equality, Diversity and Inclusion implications identified.

Human Resources

11 There are no Human Resources implications identified.

Risk Management

12 The audit has been conducted in accordance with International Standards of Auditing (UK) and means the auditors focus on audit risks that have been assessed as resulting in a higher risk of material misstatement.

Rural Communities

13 There are no direct implications to rural communities

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

14 There are no direct implications for children and young people.

Public Health

15 There are no direct implications to public health.

Climate Change

16 There are no direct implications to climate change.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Paul Goodwin - Head of Finance & Deputy Chief Finance Officer paul.goodwin@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Appendices:	Audit Progress Report – July 2023
Background Papers:	<u>Statement of Accounts and Audit Governance Statement</u>