

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Audit of Accounts And Associated Matters

1. Purpose of Report

To receive the Auditors Annual Report for 2022/23 from Forvis Mazars following completion of the audit and to receive the auditors Indicative Audit Strategy Memorandum for the Broxtowe Borough Council 2023/24 audit.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to NOTE the Auditors Annual Report for 2022/23 and the Indicative Audit Strategy Memorandum for the 2023/24 audit.

3. Detail

Further to previous updates, the Council's appointed external auditors, Forvis Mazars, have concluded their audit work in respect of the Statement of Accounts 2022/23. The auditors published and presented its Audit Completion Report to this Committee in July. It was pleasing to report that the auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion on the 2022/23 accounts.

Forvis Mazars have now completed their work in respect of the Value for Money conclusion for the year ended 31 March 2023. The auditors are required to consider whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The reporting criteria are:

- Financial sustainability – How the Council plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services.
- Governance – How the Council ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks.
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness – How the Council uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

Again, it is pleasing to report that Forvis Mazars has not identified any significant weaknesses in the Council's arrangements that would require it to make a recommendation. Further details are provided in the Auditors Annual Report for 2022/23 which is presented at **Appendix 1**.

Forvis Mazars also present their Indicative Audit Strategy Memorandum for the Council's 2023/24 audit which is provided at **Appendix 2**. The audit plan provides details relating to the auditors' engagement and responsibilities, the scope of the audit, its approach and timelines, emerging areas for audit focus, value for money arrangements and audit fees.

A representative from Forvis Mazars will be available at the meeting to introduce these reports and respond to any enquiries.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The legislation in the Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) sets out the timescales for the production of the Council's accounts, including the dates of the public inspection period. The Statement of Accounts must be published by that date or as soon as reasonably practicable after the receipt of the auditor's final findings.

Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers (the Deputy Chief Executive) has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs, which include responsibility for preparing the Council's statement of accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

The Statement of Accounts is that upon which the auditor should enter his certificate and opinion which is prepared under the Local Government Finance Act 2003.

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

Not applicable.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

As there is no change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

11. Background Papers

Nil.