



Governance Scrutiny Group

Thursday, 30 June 2022

Annual Audit Letter

Report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. The attached letter from Mazars summarises progress on the audit process for the 2020/21 financial year. It reiterates the key conclusions of the Auditors' Report on the 2020/21 Accounts and the Report to those Charged with Governance, both of which were considered by the Governance Scrutiny Group on 25 November 2021.
- 1.2. No actions are required in relation to the report although a non-material misstatement in relation to pensions was identified. The report is positive, no major concerns have been raised.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Governance Scrutiny Group note the receipt of the Annual Audit Letter.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. To ensure that due regard has been given to issues and concerns raised by the Council's external auditors.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. The Annual Audit Letter for 2020/21 is attached at Appendix A.
- 4.2. This year was another challenging year with the continued impact of Covid. The statutory deadline for signing off the Statement of Accounts was extended for a second year until 30 November 2021. No significant issues have arisen during the 2020/21 financial year with the auditors commenting upon the smooth process of the audit.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

- 5.1. There are no issues arising from this report.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

The existing budget covers the fee for audit work of £31,792. In addition to this, Mazars propose fee variations of £20,440 in relation to additional testing due to the changes in the Code of Audit Practice requirements and work as a result of Covid-19. These variations are subject to confirmation by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) and, if approved, will be covered by budget efficiencies identified in the year.

6.2. Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications connected to the recommendations of this report.

6.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no Section 17 implications connected to the recommendations of this report.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

Quality of Life	None
Efficient Services	Undertaking a programme of external audit ensures that proper and efficient services are delivered by the Council.
Sustainable Growth	None
The Environment	None

8. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Governance Scrutiny Group note the receipt of the Annual Audit Letter.

For more information contact:	Peter Linfield Director - Finance and Corporate Services Tel: 0115 9148439 plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices:	Appendix A – Mazars Annual Audit Letter 2020/21