

Item

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2019/20



To:

Civic Affairs Committee 27/01/2021

Report by:

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Wards affected:

None directly affected

1. Introduction / Executive Summary

- 1.1 The attached Annual Audit Letter from EY (Appendix 1) summarises the key issues arising from the external audit of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the contents of the Annual Audit Letter 2019/20 are noted.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Committee received EY's draft 2019/20 Audit Results Report at its meeting on 25 November 2020. At the time of issuing this report, there were a number of areas of outstanding audit work to complete before the Statement of Accounts could be signed off. Authority was therefore delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Opposition Spokes, to approve any further amendments to the Statement of Accounts (provided that these did not have a material impact on the Council's reserves or result in any changes to the auditor's opinion).

- 3.2 Audit work was completed shortly after the meeting, and the Statement of Accounts 2019/20 was authorised for issue by the Head of Finance and Chair of the Civic Affairs Committee on 18 December 2020. The audit opinion, which was unqualified, was issued on the same date.
- 3.3 EY have now issued their Annual Audit Letter, which is attached at Appendix 1. This summarises the key findings and conclusions arising from the audit.
- 3.4 The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 requires a committee of the Council to consider the letter. For this Council that committee is Civic Affairs.
- 3.5 The Annual Audit Letter also sets out EY's proposed fee for the 2019/20 audit (see page 18). It should be noted that this fee remains subject to agreement with the Head of Finance and Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA), who oversee the fee regime for local authority audits.

4. Implications

a) Financial Implications

See paragraph 3.5.

b) Staffing Implications

None

c) Equality and Poverty Implications

None

d) Environmental Implications

None

e) Procurement Implications

None

f) Community Safety Implications

None

5. Consultation and communication considerations

The Annual Audit Letter will be published on the Council's website.

6. Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – EY Annual Audit Letter 2019/20

8. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Jody Etherington, Deputy Head of Finance, tel: 01223 - 458130, email: jody.etherington@cambridge.gov.uk.