

Status of Report: *Public*

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority

Date: 27 July 2022

Subject: External Audit – Annual Report for the Year Ending 31 March 2021

Report by: The Treasurer

Author: Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance, Leicester City Council

For: Discussion

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present the External Auditor's (Mazars) Annual Report 2020/21.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Combined Fire Authority notes the External Auditor's Annual Report 2020/21.

Executive Summary

3. The External Auditor's Annual Report (attached at the Appendix) summarises the audit work for the year ended 31 March 2021. Although this report is addressed to the Authority, it is designed to be read by a wider audience including members of the public and other external stakeholders.

Background

4. The Annual Report (attached at the Appendix) summarises the findings of the 2020/21 audit.
5. The External Auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements in December 2021.
6. The work on the Value for Money conclusion is now complete and the Report provides commentary on the Authority's arrangements. No significant weaknesses in arrangements were identified and there are no recommendations arising.
7. The audit certificate cannot be issued until the National Audit Office provides instructions on group reporting.

Report Implications/Impact

8. Legal (including crime and disorder)

None

9. Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

The total audit fee was £34,026 (page 17 of the appendix).

10. Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

The External Auditor provides reassurance to the CFA and general public that the CFA is meeting its statutory obligations. They also work with Internal Audit and the Treasurer in ensuring that effective internal control procedures are in place.

11. Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)

None.

12. Environmental

None.

13. Impact upon "Our Plan" Objectives

The Finance and Resources strategic aim of demonstrating value for money is supported by the External Auditor's opinion on the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts and Value for Money conclusion.

Background Papers

None.

Appendices

External Auditor's Annual Report 2020/21

Officers to Contact

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