

Report to Audit Committee

Subject: Mazars Annual Audit Letter 2019/20
Date: 16 March 2021
Author: Director of Corporate Resources and S151 Officer

1 Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the outcome of the external audit work in respect of 2019/20.

Recommendation:

THAT:

- 1) Members accept the Mazars Annual Audit Letter for 2019/20 (Appendix 1) and refer it to Council for information.

2 Background

The external auditor's Annual Audit Letter summarises the outcomes from the audit work at Gedling Borough Council in relation to the 2019/20 audit year. Although it is addressed to the Council, it is designed to be read by a wider audience, including members of the public and other external stakeholders, and will be placed on the Authority's website.

3 Proposal

As external auditors, Mazars have concluded their audit work for 2019/20 and outcomes are summarised in the Annual Audit Letter attached at Appendix 1. The letter confirms that an unqualified audit opinion was issued in respect of both the Council's Financial Statements and the Value for Money arrangements. In addition, it confirms that they did not have to issue a public interest report and did not have to exercise any other audit powers

under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 during the course of the audit.

Section 5 of the Annual Audit Letter summarises the audit fees for the work. The final fee for the 2019/20 audit of the authority was £32,779 plus additional fees, yet to be agreed, for work relating to:

- Additional testing on property, plant and equipment (PPE) and Pensions
- Additional costs associated with 2019/20 including:
 - Impact of material valuation uncertainty on PPE and pension fund assets;
 - Updating audit risk assessments;
 - Additional consideration of estimation uncertainty;
 - Changes impacting pension liabilities through the McCloud and Goodwin legal cases.

It is proposed that the letter is accepted and be recommended to Full Council.

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

6 Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

Appendix 1 Mazars Annual Audit Letter 2019/20.

Statutory officer Approval:

Approved by: Chief Financial Officer

Date: 8 March 2021

Approved by: Monitoring Officer

Date: 8 March 2021