

Report to Audit Committee

Subject: Mazars External Audit Report 2020/21

Date: 2 February 2022

Author: Chief Financial Officer

1 Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the key findings arising from Mazars' (the Council's external auditors) audit work in respect of 2020/21

<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>THAT:</p> <p>1) Members note the Mazars external audit report for 2020/21.</p>

2 Background

1.1 It is a requirement that the Council's financial statements are audited on an annual basis and that in addition the auditors undertake all work necessary to support their conclusion on value for money (VFM).

3 Proposal

As external auditors, Mazars have completed the audit of the Council's financial statements for 2020/21 and their Audit Completion Report is attached at Appendix 1. However, the work to support their conclusion on the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the VFM conclusion) is still ongoing and will be reported at the Audit Committee meeting in March.

It is proposed that the Audit Completion Report is noted.

4 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

Under section 4 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Council's accounts must be audited by an auditor appointed under the Act. Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) has appointed Mazars for a period of five years commencing 1 April 2018 to act as Gedling Borough Council's external auditor. The general duties of the external auditor are specified in section 20 of the 2014 Act, requiring them to be satisfied in auditing the accounts that:

- The accounts comply with the requirements of the enactments that apply to them;
- Proper practices have been observed in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, and that the statement presents a true and fair view;
- The authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

When the auditor has completed the audit of the accounts, they must enter onto the Statement of Accounts:

- An auditor's opinion on the statement;
- A certificate that the audit has been completed in accordance with the 2014 Act.

In carrying out their functions the auditor must comply with the Code of Audit Practice and have regard to guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the Act. The Code of Audit Practice 2020 requires the auditor to produce an annual report which brings together all of the auditor's work over the year and present it to those charged with governance. The auditor's annual report should be published no later than 30 September, but where the auditor is unable to do this, they should issue an audit letter including a statement explaining the reason for the delay.

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

Mazars Audit Completion Report 2020/21 (to follow)

Statutory officer Approval:

Approved by: Chief Financial Officer

Date: 24.01.22

Approved by: Monitoring Officer

Date: 24.01.22