

Report to Audit Committee

Subject: Mazars External Audit 2021/22 Progress Report
Date: 14 March 2023
Author: Director of Corporate Resources and S151 Officer

1 Purpose of Report

To update Members on the progress with the 2021/22 external audit work by Mazars (the Council's external auditor).

Recommendation:

THAT:

- 1) Members note the Mazars external audit 2021/22 progress report.

2 Background

- 1.1 On 28 June 2022 Members approved the Mazars External Audit, Audit Strategy Memorandum for the year ended 31 March 2022. This Memorandum set out the key deliverables in respect of the audit and report on the 2021/22 Financial Statements and also the work that Mazars are required to undertake to form a view as to whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (value for money). The associated external audit work remains ongoing and this report presents a progress update on the current status of the audit.
- 1.2 Members will recall the initial delay in the issuing of the Auditor's 2021/22 Annual Report beyond the statutory deadline of 30 September, the reason for which i.e. due to the extension to accounts and audit timetable, was notified by letter to the Audit Committee Chair and was published on the Council's website in accordance with regulations. A notice was also published on the Council's website detailing the associated delay in the

publication of the audited Statement of Accounts beyond the statutory deadline of 30 November 2022.

3 Proposal

It is proposed that the Audit committee note the Mazars Audit Progress Report for the year ending 31 March 2022 detailing the current status of the audit and the reasons for the ongoing delay as set out in the appendix to the report.

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 Progress Report – Year ending 31 March 2022.

Statutory officer Approval:

Approved by: Chief Financial Officer

Date: 6 March 2023

Approved by: Monitoring Officer

Date: 6 March 2023