

## **Report to Audit Committee**

**Subject: Mazars External Audit report 2021/22**

**Date: 10 December 2024**

**Author: Chief Finance and Section 151 Officer**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

To inform Members of the key findings arising from Mazars (the Council's external auditors) audit work in respect of 2021/22.

#### **Recommendations:**

##### **That Members:**

- Note the Mazars external audit report for 2021/22.

### **2. Background**

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 2021/22, and their Audit Completion Report is attached at Appendix 1.

Mazars had initially undertaken a significant amount of audit work on the 2021/22 Financial statements however, In July 2022 the Council uncovered a significant fraud which led to a revision of the audit strategy and the testing required. Additional audit procedures were carried out but due to the additional testing required, the complexity of the fraud and the introduction of the backstop date of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 meant that Mazars had insufficient time to perform all the necessary procedures to provide assurance and complete the audit.

For the reasons stated above Mazars intend to issue a disclaimer of opinion in respect of the 2021/22 audit.

**4. Financial Implications**

None arising directly from this report.

**5. Legal Implications**

None arising directly from this report.

**6. Equalities Implications**

None arising directly from this report.

**7. Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

None arising directly from this report.

**8. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Audit Completion Report 2021/22

**Statutory Officer Approval**

**Approved by: Chief Financial Officer**  
**Date:**

**Approved by: Monitoring Officer**  
**Date:**

