

## **Report to Audit Committee**

**Subject: Mazars External Audit – Audit Strategy & Completion Report Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 23**

**Date: 10 December 2024**

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

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

The attached report prepared by Mazars, the Council's External Auditor, sets out the External Audit Strategy Memorandum for the year ending 31 March 2023 for approval.

#### **Recommendations:**

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

- Receive the report and approve the Mazars External Audit Strategy for 2022/23 and refer the report to full Council for information
- Note the

### **2. Background**

Under normal circumstances Mazars would report the results on their planning work, including the significant risks identified and planned procedure in the Audit Strategy Memorandum. Results of the audit would be presented in the Audit Completion Report. However, as a result of backstop arrangements. Mazars are reporting in a combined Audit Strategy and Completion Report.

### **3. Proposal**

Mazars are appointed to audit the financial statements of the Council in accordance with International Accounting standards, and under normal circumstances to form and express an opinion on whether the financial statements present a true and fair view on the Council's financial position and standing for 2022/23.

The introduction of the Governments measures to deal with audit backlogs (the backstop arrangements) requires The Council to publish its financial statements on or before 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, in addition Mazars are required to provide their audit report on the 2022/23 financial statements even though the audit has not been completed.

The additional work required as part of the Fraud identified in July 2022 led to significantly more testing being required, and additional work around risks associated with the fraud and ICT controls. As a result of these backstop arrangements Mazars has concluded that there is insufficient time to complete their audit procedures, and therefore intends to issue a disclaimer of opinion on the Councils Financial Statements for 2022/23.

**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 Strategy & Completion Report

**Statutory Officer Approval**

**Approved by: Chief Financial Officer**

**Date:**

**Approved by: Monitoring Officer**

**Date:**

