



Report to: Audit & Governance Committee Meeting
24 April 2024

Director or Business Manager Lead: Sanjiv Kohli, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Resources and S151 Officer

Lead Officer: Nick Wilson, Business Manager – Financial Services
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Report Summary	
Report Title	External Auditors Annual Draft Audit Completion Report
Purpose of Report	To present the External Auditor’s Final Annual Audit Completion Report for Newark and Sherwood District Council for 2022/23.
Recommendations	Members receive and note the External Auditors Final Annual Audit Completion Report for 2022/23. Members note the adjustments to the audited financial statements set out in the report.
Reason for Recommendation	To ensure that the Committee discharges its responsibilities as per its delegated authority within the Councils constitution.

1.0 Background

1.1 The external auditor issues an Annual Audit Completion Report (ACR) in compliance with the International Standards on Auditing. The significant findings from the audit are reported in the Annual Audit Completion Report, together with the action taken in respect of these findings. The report also gives the auditor’s opinion on the Statement of Accounts.

2.0 Statement of Accounts

2.1 The ACR confirms that the external auditor anticipates issuing an unqualified opinion of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts. Approval of the Statement of Accounts by this Committee was delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Resource – S151

Officer and the Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee at the meeting of this Committee on 21st February 2024.

2.2 This report asks the Committee to:

- consider the matters raised in the External Auditors Annual Completion Report before approving the financial statements;
- take note of the adjustments to the financial statements included in the ACR (Appendix A);

2.3 There is a requirement that the external auditor, Mazars, provides details of all of the corrections in the financial statements that need amendment. Therefore, their final Audit Completion Report will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee post the completion of the audit, either as a confirmation letter of no further amendments or an updated version.

3.0 Commentary on Value for Money arrangements

3.1 Included within this final version of the ACR is a commentary on the Value for Money arrangements.

3.2 Part 3 of appendix A details the work undertaken in or to be able to comment on the Council's arrangements for Value for Money, together with the outcomes of Mazars' work against each of the reporting criteria. This includes whether they have identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements or made any other recommendations.

3.3 The table on page 10 of the document shows that the outcome of their work has not identified any risk or actual significant weaknesses or has not led to any other recommendations being made across the areas of:

- Financial Sustainability
- Governance
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

3.4 A further detailed commentary on each of the reporting criteria is included within pages 12 onwards.

4.0 Other reporting responsibilities

4.1 Section 4 of the report details the other reporting responsibilities that Mazars have powers to report on where necessary. The report confirms they have not exercised any of these statutory reporting powers.

5.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations officers have considered the following implications; Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None