



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Standards and Governance Committee

Purpose: Noting

Date 17 November 2020

Title **EXTERNAL AUDIT RESULTS REPORT 2019/20**

Report of Treasurer

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SUMMARY

1. Attached to this report, in **Appendix A**, is the External Auditor's Audit Results report for the year ended 31 March 2020. It summarises the findings from the audit of the Authority's financial statements, and the work undertaken to assess arrangements in place to secure value for money in our use of resources and represents an update from the report issued in September.
2. The Auditor proposes to issue an unqualified audit report on the financial statements subject to concluding the matters listed in the draft report, and has concluded that we have proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of our resources.

BACKGROUND

3. The impact of Covid-19 has meant that the final date for the approval and audit of the 2019/20 accounts has been changed to 30 November 2020. However, it was agreed with Ernst & Young (EY) that we would attempt to sign off HFRA's accounts by the end of September.
4. Whilst a draft report was issued for September, there were several issues still outstanding. Many of these have now progressed and a revised Audit Results Report is now attached at Appendix A.
5. The results are basically the same as issued in September and once again are positive in that, subject to concluding the outstanding matters listed in the draft report, an unqualified opinion on the accounts is expected and EY have concluded that we have proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of our resources

SUPPORTING OUR SERVICE PLAN AND PRIORITIES

6. Good financial management is essential to enable the Service to achieve its plans and priorities and the audit results report provides external confirmation around the quality and content of the final accounts and the overall financial resilience of the Authority.

CONSULTATION

7. No consultation is required for this report as it is based on historic information and is a purely factual document.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no direct resource implications contained within this report, but appropriate financial resources have been made available to fund the estimated cost of the 2019/20 audit fee, albeit this may be subject to proposed changes that would need to be agreed by the Authority or referred to the Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA) for consideration.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. It is a legal requirement that the Statement of Accounts is approved by those charged with governance and is then independently signed off by external audit.

PEOPLE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10. There are no direct impacts on people as a result of this report.

OPTIONS

11. This report deals with the audit results report from the external auditor, there are therefore no options for consideration in this report.

RISK ANALYSIS

12. Areas of risk are identified by the auditor as part of the planning process and examination of these areas form part of the formal audit and the results are reported in the attached Appendix.

CONCLUSION

13. The audit opinion and value for money conclusion are important elements in confirming that there is sound financial management within the Authority. The report from the auditors is positive and confirms that there are no material issues about which the Committee needs to be made aware, but certain

matters have been highlighted by the auditors in respect of some of the impacts on the accounts of Covid-19.

RECOMMENDATION

14. That the Committee receives and notes the latest External Auditor's HFRA Audit Results Report for the year ended 31 March 2020.
15. That the Committee considers any recommendations that it may wish to make to the full Authority in respect of the Annual Audit Letter.

APPENDICES ATTACHED

16. Appendix A – External Audit Results Report Year Ended 31 March 2020

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 – background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

Final Accounts Report 2019/20 – HFRA 22 July 2020

NB: the list excludes Published works

Documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act:

None