

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

TO:	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	24th JANUARY 2023		
TITLE:	EXTERNAL AUDITOR UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR TERRY	PORTFOLIO:	CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES
SERVICE:	FINANCE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	MARK SANDERS	TEL:	0118 937 4431
JOB TITLE:	CHIEF ACCOUNTANT	E-MAIL:	Mark.Sanders@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 A representative from the Council's External Auditor EY will provide a verbal update on the 2019/20 audit process and present their 2020/21 External Audit Plan.
- 1.2 The 2020/21 External Audit Plan is included as an Appendix to this report.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Committee notes EY's update on the accounts process.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes the 2020/21 External Audit Plan.

3. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 3.1 The external audit process includes the approval of the annual Statement of Accounts results and the publication of accurate, transparent financial information which gives a true and fair view of Reading Borough Council's economic performance and financial stability.

4. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None arising.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 5.1 This report will include where appropriate any feedback from public inspection of accounts.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Not applicable.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Part Five of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires authorities to allow the public to inspect the accounts for a single period of 30 working days and stipulates that this must include the first 10 working days of June of the financial year immediately following the financial year to which the accounts relate. The Council was unable to comply with this requirement in respect of the financial years 2017/18 to 2021/22 as the accounts were not ready for inspection.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The audit fees will be reported in due course.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Previous Closing Accounts updates reports to the Audit & Governance Committee.