

**READING BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

<b>TO:</b>	<b>AUDIT &amp; GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023</b>		
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>EXTERNAL AUDITOR UPDATE</b>		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLOR:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR TERRY</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	<b>CORPORATE AND CUSTOMER SERVICES</b>
<b>SERVICE:</b>	<b>FINANCE</b>	<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>BOROUGHWIDE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>MARK SANDERS</b>	<b>TEL:</b>	<b>0118 937 4431</b>
<b>JOB TITLE:</b>	<b>CHIEF ACCOUNTANT</b>	<b>E-MAIL:</b>	<b>Mark.Sanders@reading.gov.uk</b>

**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 and will present a draft Audit Results Report for 2020/21 which 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 Draft Audit Results Report for 2020/21.

**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.