

# Audit and Governance Committee

27 September 2023



**Reading**  
Borough Council  
Working better with you

<b>Title</b>	<b>External Auditor Update</b>
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To note the report for information
<b>Report status</b>	Public report
<b>Report author</b>	Mark Sanders, Chief Accountant
<b>Lead Councillor</b>	Councillor Terry, Deputy Leader of the Council & Lead Councillor for Corporate Services and Resources
<b>Corporate priority</b>	Not applicable, but still requires a decision
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the Committee notes EY's draft Audit Results Report for 2020/21 financial statements.</li><li>2. That the Committee notes EY's planning update for 2021/22.</li></ol>

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. A representative from the Council's External Auditor EY will present their draft Audit Results Report for the 2020/21 financial statements and provide an update with regard to planning for the audit of the following year's statements.

## 2. 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.

## 3. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 3.1. None arising.

## 4. Community Engagement

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

## 5. Equality Implications

- 5.1. Not applicable.

## 6. Other Relevant Considerations

- 6.1. There are none.

## **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 2022/23 as the accounts were not ready for inspection.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1. The audit fees are reported within the detail of the report or appendices.

## **9. Timetable for Implementation**

- 9.1. As set out in the body of the report.

## **10. Background Papers**

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