

Report for: Corporate Committee 16 November 2021

Item number: 8

Title: External Audit Plan 2020/21

Report authorised by: Jon Warlow, Director of Finance (S151 Officer)

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Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non Key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. This report updates the Committee on the Council's plan for the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21, which includes the Housing Revenue Account and Haringey Pensions Fund.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That the Committee notes the contents of this report and any further oral updates given at the meeting by BDO LLP.

4. Reason for Decision

- 4.1. None.

5. Other options considered

- 5.1. None.

6. Background information

- 6.1. The content of the Statement of Accounts is largely determined by statutory requirements and mandatory professional standards as set out within the "Code of Practice on Financial Reporting" published by

the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The CIPFA Code of Practice is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), however adopts these in some cases to tailor their application to Local Government Finance.

- 6.2. The preparation and audit of the annual statement of accounts is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. The 2020/21 draft accounts must be prepared and certified by 01st August 2021 (Revised deadline) by the Section 151 Officer that they represent a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council.
- 6.3. Audits should then be concluded by 30 September (Revised deadline) and audited accounts published by this date, or, if audits have not concluded audited accounts should be published as soon as possible after this date.
- 6.4. Haringey published its draft accounts for 2020/21 by the 01st August 2021, as required, but was not able to conclude the audit by the 30th September 2021. Around 9% of all Local Government audits were concluded by the 30 September in 2021.
- 6.5. The 2020/21 audit plan will be presented by David Eagles, the Audit Partner from BDO. The plan sets out the approach the auditors will take, the key issues, timescales, staffing and fee for the audit. The audit plan is appended to this report at Appendix 1.
- 6.6. Officers will provide the auditors with all necessary information during the audit which will take place from November 2021 to January 2022. BDO will then report back to the Corporate Committee in February 2022 on their findings and any recommendations.
- 6.7. Auditors are under increasing regulatory pressure to complete additional work compared to prior years, to gain higher levels of assurance before they can sign off an audit as complete.
- 6.8. This year, Auditors are required to provide additional commentary on financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.

7. Contribution to Strategic Outcomes

- 7.1. None.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

- 8.1. As this report details a financial subject matter, finance comments are made throughout the content of this report.

Legal

- 8.2. The Council is a category 1 authority and must comply with the requirements of the relevant Regulations of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 when preparing a statement of accounts. Members should note the content of this report and the plan for the external audit to be carried out by BDO. In considering the report Members must consider the expert financial advice available to it and any further oral advice given at the meeting of the Committee. The report does not raise any legal issues.

Equalities

- 8.3. There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Audit Plan from BDO

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1. Not applicable.