

SUBJECT:	EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2019/20
DIRECTORATE:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK
REPORT AUTHOR:	JACLYN GIBSON, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The attached External Audit progress report provides the Audit Committee with an update on progress in delivering their responsibilities.

2. Background

- 2.1 The External Audit – Audit Strategy Memorandum which describes the External Auditor’s (Mazars LLP) approach in delivering the financial statements audit work for City of Lincoln Council along with their approach to value for money (VFM) work for 2018/19 was presented to the last meeting of this Committee in March 2019.

3. Audit Progress

- 3.1 An update on progress against the Audit Strategy is provided in Appendix A, along with an update on a number of technical issues.
- 3.2 Mazars LLP will be in attendance at the meeting and will present the attached report.

4. Strategic Priorities

4.1 High performing services

There are no direct implications for the Council’s strategic priorities. The external audit of the Council’s financial statements and VFM conclusion is a statutory requirement and as such contributes towards the fitness for purpose of the Council’s governance arrangements.

5. Organisational Impacts

5.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

The Audit fee includes work on the VFM conclusion and the audit of the financial statements, the fee for 2019/20 is £36,332 and is in accordance with the scales fees set by the PSAA. Separate agreement will be reached with Mazars regarding the additional fee in relation to the EU PIE classification.

5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no direct legal implications. The External Auditor is required to satisfy themselves that the Council’s accounts comply with statutory requirements and

that proper practices have been observed in compiling them.

5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

There are no direct implications arising as a result of this report.

6. Risk Implications

6.1 There are no specific risk implications arising as a result of this report.

7. Recommendation

7.1 Audit Committee should note the contents of this report and of the attached appendix.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? One

List of Background Papers: None

Lead Officer: Jaclyn Gibson, Chief Finance Officer
Telephone (01522) 873258