



**Report for: GOVERNANCE, AUDIT,
 RISK MANAGEMENT
 AND STANDARDS
 COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 05 July 2023

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT**
 Audit Update 2021/22

Responsible Officer: Dawn Calvert, Director of Finance
 and Assurance

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides the Committee with an update on the 2021/22 external audit.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to note the following Audit Update 2021/22 for the Council.

Section 2 – Report

Audit Update 2021/22

1. This covering report has been prepared to give an update on the completion of the audit of the Council's statement of accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022.

2. At the 23 May 2023 meeting, the auditors presented their audit completion report and highlighted two aspects of the Council's accounts where the audit was incomplete.
3. The following is the latest position on those two items:
4. Valuation of property, plant and equipment
 - It was reported in May that the auditors had identified several issues with the Council's valuation of its property, plant and equipment. They had completed part of their work in this area and identified some material adjustments to the Council's accounts.
 - However, there remained some work to complete where the auditors are waiting for the Council to provide further information, confirm subsequent amendments, select additional samples for testing and then complete that testing.
5. Pensions valuation
 - It was also reported in May that there is a national issue relating to the Council's pensions assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2022. It has now been agreed that the auditors would carry out a programme of work on the pension fund membership data in early July.
 - That work remains as planned and the auditors anticipate completion by the end of July.
6. Overall status of the 2021/22 accounts audit
 - As a result of the two outstanding items above the audit remains substantially complete but the audit work will not conclude until late July.
7. Status of the 2022/23 accounts audit
 - Assuming the 2021/22 accounts are concluded by the end of July, the 2022/23 draft accounts should be published by the end of August and will be presented to GARMS at the September Committee meeting.
 - The statutory deadline for the 2022/23 draft accounts was the 31st of May and as it was not met, the council published a notice of delay in publishing the accounts on the website as required by legislation.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Risk Management Implications

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? **No**

Separate risk register in place? **No**

The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below. **n/a**

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Considering the Council's Public Sector Equality Duties under the Equality Act 2010, s.149, is integral to the decision- making process.

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? **No**

There are no direct equalities implications.

Council Priorities

The external audit provides assurance that the Council has managed its finances and delivered value for money in accordance with all the Council's priorities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer:

Signed by the Head of Strat & Tech Finance (Deputy s151 Officer)

Sharon Daniels

Date: 15 June 2023

Statutory Officer:

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Caroline Eccles

Date: 15 June 2023

Chief Officer:

Signed by the Chief Financial Officer

Dawn Calvert

Date: 15 June 2023

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Yinka Ehinfun (Chief Accountant)
Email: Yinka.Ehinfun@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

1. None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| 1 Consultation | No |
| 2 Priorities | No |