



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	External Audit Results Report 2018-19
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Audit Committee Meeting Date:	25 March 2021
Policy Document:	Statement of Accounts
Directorate:	Chief Finance Officer
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Brandon Eldred

1. Purpose

1.1 This report presents the Audit Results Report produced by Ernst & Young LLP (EY LLP) in relation to the Statement of Accounts for 2018-19.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Audit Committee note and consider the external Audit Results report and recommendations.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 Ernst and Young LLP (EY LLP) were appointed as the Council's external auditors from the 2018-19 financial year onwards.

3.1.2 The External Auditor is required to report separately to this Committee on the findings during the audit of accounts and provide an opinion on the Statement of Accounts and in relation to the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (Value For Money) for the financial year 2018-19.

3.1.3 The Audit Committee are required to note and consider the Audit Results Report (ISA 260) presented by EY at Appendix A prior to the consideration and approval of the final Statement of Accounts for 2018-19 contained elsewhere on this agenda.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 There are no specific policy implications from this report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 There is a resource implication in ensuring that the finance team and other teams required to support the audit process are available to support the delayed audit process for 2018/19, 2019/20 and closedown activities in the current year 20/21. This will place additional demands on staff time. This may lead to additional costs through the retention of external resources supporting the teams to the conclusion of the closedown and audit of the authorities accounts.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The actions proposed in this report will enable the Council to meet its statutory requirements of finalising its 2018/19 Statement of Accounts.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 There are no specific equality implications from this report.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 This report has been produced by the Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer).

4.5.2 The external audit commenced in January 2020 by EY LLP. The completion of the audit has been prolonged due to the reasons set out in the Audit Results Report (ISA 260) report produced by EY LLP at Appendix A.

4.6 The Audit Committee has received periodic updates on the progress of the audit from EY LLP over the course of the audit.

4.7 Other Implications

4.7.1 None specifically.

5. Background Papers

5.1 None

Stuart McGregor
Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

Contact: DMiddleton@northamptonshire.gov.uk