

Subject	External Auditor's Annual Report	Status	For Publication
Report to	Audit Committee	Date	20/10/2022
Report of	Treasurer		
Equality Impact Assessment	Not Required	Attached	Na
Contact Officer	Gillian Taberner Head of Finance & Corporate Services	Phone	01226 666420
E Mail	GTaberner@sypa.org.uk		

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To allow members of the Audit Committee to consider and comment on the External Auditor's Annual Report before it is received by the Full Authority.
-

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
- a. **Note and comment on the External Auditor's Annual Report at Appendix A; and**
 - b. **Refer the report to the Authority and in doing so, consider whether they wish to make any specific recommendations.**
-

3 Link to Corporate Objectives

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objectives:
Effective and Transparent Governance

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

- 3.2 The reporting of audit findings is a key part of providing assurance on the adequacy of the Authority's corporate governance arrangements, particularly those relating to financial management and controls.

4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register

- 4.1 This report does not address any specific corporate risks. However, the auditor's work does reflect on the effectiveness of the Authority's risk management arrangements.

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 Each year the Authority's external auditor issues a number of reports on various elements of their work, such as the final accounts. These are all summarised in the Annual Report, which is attached at Appendix A. Good practice and transparency, which will ultimately be reinforced by regulation, dictate that this report should be publicly considered by the equivalent of Full Council (in the case of SYPA the Full Authority). However, given this Committee's remit, it makes sense for it to consider the matter before the Authority does so that the Authority can also consider any comments.
- 5.2 Deloitte will present their annual report attached at Appendix A and respond to any questions the Committee may have. However, the key messages for the Committee are on page 3 of the report, which indicates that the various aspects of the audit including the financial statements received a "clean" report and the auditor did not make any use of their statutory powers. The report also includes the full results of the Value for Money work undertaken by Deloitte in support of the new approach to this area set out in the Code of Audit Practice. This makes no specific recommendations and generally identifies that the Authority has the expected arrangements in place
- 5.3 Also attached, at Appendix B, is the final report of the external auditor on the audit of the financial statements for the 2021/22 year. Members will recall that they considered an earlier version of this report at their July meeting when some aspects of the audit work were yet to be concluded. The audit work was completed and the audited accounts signed off on 7 September. The report attached at Appendix B reflects the final status of the audit and provides an update in regard to audit fees on page 31 of the report.

6 Implications

- 6.1 The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications:

Financial	No additional financial implications, the fees for the external audit can be met from existing budgets; including the additional fees proposed subject to approval by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Limited.
Human Resources	None
ICT	None
Legal	None
Procurement	None

Neil Copley

Gillian Taberner

Treasurer

Head of Finance & Corporate Services

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
None	-