

Report to Audit Committee

Audit Committee Chair- Charged with Governance - Management Processes and Arrangements

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability

Officer Contact: Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance

Report Author: John Miller, Head of Audit and Counter fraud.

25 July 2024

Reason for Decision

The Audit Committee's Terms of Reference state that:

4.4.2 The Audit Committee shall:

- a) be responsible for oversight of the Council's relationship with the External Auditor, including consideration of:
 - (iv) issues arising from the audit of the Annual Statement of Accounts.

To enable the Council's external auditors, Mazars LLP, to carry out their duties under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Audit Committee, via the Chair, is required to provide the auditors with the necessary assurances required under International Standards on Auditing (ISA), particularly, ISA 260, Communication with Those Charged with Governance.

Executive Summary

In carrying out their annual audit of the Council, Mazars LLP comply with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as adopted by the UK Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

ISAs require the auditor to make enquiries of those charged with governance (TCWG) to determine whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud

affecting the entity. These enquiries are made in part to corroborate the responses to the enquiries of management.

Mazars LLP has sent the Audit Committee a questionnaire setting out their enquiries of TCWG. The letter and questionnaire are shown in Appendix 1, and the Chair of the Audit Committee's proposed responses are set out in Appendix 2. There is a requirement to respond to Mazars LLP by 30 September 2024.

Recommendation

That Members of the Audit Committee are asked to review and approve the Council's response.