

Agenda Item 6



Regulatory and Other

Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	15 June 2020
Subject:	External Audit Strategies – Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Pension Fund 2019/20

Summary:

Our external auditors, Mazars LLP, present three reports on their 2019/20 audit strategies for Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Pension Fund, and a progress report on these.

Actions Required:

The Executive Director for Resources recommends that the Audit Committee considers the external audit strategies and progress report and identifies any further information or actions that may be required.

1. Background

1.1 Our external auditors, Mazars LLP, have prepared two strategies setting out their approach to this year's audit work on Lincolnshire County Council's main accounts and on the Lincolnshire Pension Fund. The purpose of these strategies is to summarise for this Committee the audit approach, the significant audit risks and areas of key judgements, and details of the audit team.

1.2 These first documents set the scene for this year's audit, and a progress report has also been prepared to give the Audit Committee an update on work carried out so far, as well as some information about the likely impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the accounts and the audit.

1.3 The strategies include the following main themes:

- The audit engagement team;
- The audit scope, approach and timeline (note that the timeline has since been amended);
- Significant risks and areas of key judgements for this year;
- Value for money (applies to the main LCC accounts only);
- Audit fees;
- Auditor independence;
- Communications with the Audit Committee

1.4 The progress report brings the two strategies up to date where appropriate, and provides details of the changes to the audit approach as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. These include changes to the timelines; remote working; the impact on financial reporting in the accounts and the impact on the value for money conclusion.

1.5 The external auditors welcome the opportunity to interact with Members of the Audit Committee and will be presenting their reports at the meeting.

2. Conclusion

2.1 The Audit Strategy Memoranda provide detail on how the external auditors plan to conduct this year's audit work. The progress report gives assurance about the progress and delivery of the external audit plan, and assurance that risks to the successful production of the accounts and delivery of the audit are being managed, particularly in the current pandemic environment.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Audit Strategy Memorandum 2019/20
Appendix B	Lincolnshire Pension Fund (LPF) Audit Strategy Memorandum 2019/20
Appendix C	Audit Committee Progress Report – February 2020 (LCC and LPF)

5. Background Papers

No Background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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