



**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources**

Report to:	<b>Audit Committee</b>
Date:	<b>13 November 2023</b>
Subject:	<b>Completion of the Audit of Accounts for Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Pension Fund 2021/22</b>

**Summary:**

The audit of the 2021/22 accounts has now concluded. This report summarises the events since the 2021/22 accounts were last presented to this Committee, and the current position including outstanding work relating to the audit of Whole of Government Accounts 2021/22. A Mazars representative will be in attendance at the meeting to answer any questions arising.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Executive Director of Resources recommends that the Audit Committee notes the position of the audit for the 2021/22 accounts.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 Members of this Committee will be aware that the accounts for 2021/22 have remained open to allow for amendments following the reporting of national issues. The first national issue related to the accounting treatment of infrastructure assets, and the second national issue was that the Local Government Pension Scheme triennial valuation on 31 March 2022 had been published and so needed to be taken account of in the 2021/22 accounts.
- 1.2 Mazars LLP (Mazars) presented an Audit Completion Report 2021/22 for the Lincolnshire Pension Fund to this Committee on 14 November 2022, and an Audit Completion Report 2021/22 for Lincolnshire County Council to this Committee on 25 September 2023. The Lincolnshire County Council Audit Completion Report 2021/22 did not include a Value for Money commentary at the time. This commentary is included in section three of the Auditors Annual Report, which is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.3 Officers amended the accounts to recognise the interim requirements for accounting for infrastructure assets and also amended the accounts to reflect an updated valuation for the Lincolnshire Pension Fund. The Statement of Accounts 2021/22

including these amendments was presented to this Committee on 25 September 2023, although this document did not include audit opinions. The audit of these accounts has been completed by Mazars and they have issued unqualified audit opinions for both Lincolnshire County Council and the Lincolnshire Pension Fund. The final Statement of Accounts 2021/22, including the two audit opinions, will now be signed and then published on the Council's website.

- 1.4 Mazars have issued an Audit Completion Report Follow Up Letter for Lincolnshire County Council for 2021/22 and this is attached as Appendix B and includes updates to the position last reported by Mazars to this Committee. It is in draft format because it is due to be dated and signed. There are no further matters to report for the Pension Fund. A Mazars representative will attend the Committee meeting to answer any questions arising about the audit of the 2021/22 accounts.
- 1.5 There remains the outstanding matter of the audit of the Whole of Government Accounts for 2021/22, with Mazars awaiting further guidance on this from the National Audit Office. Once this work has been carried out, an Audit Certificate for 2021/22 will be issued and published on the Council's website.

## **2. Conclusion**

- 2.1 The audit of the 2021/22 accounts is now complete and unqualified audit opinions have been issued. The final Statement of Accounts can now be signed off and published. An Audit Certificate for 2021/22 will be issued once the outstanding audit of the Whole of Government Accounts 2021/22 has been concluded.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Risks and Impact Analysis**

N/A

## **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Auditor's Annual Report Lincolnshire County Council 2021/22
Appendix B	Audit Completion Report Follow Up Letter 2021/22 Draft

## **5. Background Papers**

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

This report was written by Michelle Grady, who can be contacted on 01522 553235 or [michelle.grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk) .

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