

TO: GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
21 June 2023

EXTERNAL AUDIT: AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT
(Executive Director: Resources)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the progress in completing the audit of the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial statements.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 Financial Statements for 2020/21

- 2.1.1 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021), draft accounts were required to be signed by the 31 July 2021 and audited by the 30 September 2021. The Executive Director: Resources signed the draft 2020/21 Statement of Accounts on 28 May 2021. The accounts were then made available on the Council's website.

- 2.1.2 It was not possible to meet the 30 September deadline due to delays in the completion of the audit of Royal County of Berkshire Pension Fund by Deloitte LLP. A revised Assurance Letter has now been received by our external auditors Ernst and Young (EY) which will enable the audit to be finalised

- 2.1.3 Andrew Brittain, an Associate Partner at EY, will give a verbal update at the meeting on the latest position.

2.2 Financial Statements for 2021/22

- 2.2.1 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2022), draft accounts were required to be signed by the 31 July 2022 and audited by the 30 November 2022. The Executive Director: Resources signed the draft 2021/22 Statement of Accounts on 22 June 2022.

- 2.2.2 The audit of RBWM's 2021/22 accounts, both main and pension fund, is not expected to commence until summer 2023. Without assurances on the pension fund this Council's audit cannot be completed. In addition to this, there are a number of areas of audit EY still needs to complete on Bracknell Forest's accounts. These outstanding areas are scheduled to be audited in July and August 2023.

Contacts for further information

Stuart McKellar – 01344 352180
Stuart.mckellar@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Arthur Parker – 01344 352158
Arthur.parker@bracknell-forest.gov.uk