



Update on 2019/20 audit

The purpose of this note is to update the General Purposes Committee on the progress in finalising the 2019/20 audit.

2019/20

Work on finalising the 2019/20 audits of the main Council's accounts and of the Pension Fund was suspended during the NHS audit period in 2023. This has now recommenced, albeit later than planned due to a number of significantly overrunning audits including, critically, ones involving London Borough of Enfield's senior audit team.

Ciaran McLaughlin has replaced David Eagles in January 2023 as the engagement Partner as a result of David's scheduled retirement, and his senior review of work performed is underway and should be complete by the end of January 2024.

Our intention is to finalise the remaining issues with the audit to enable reporting and signing in April 2024.

The key outstanding issues are:

- Finalisation of fieldwork and quality review over Property, Plant and Equipment, including:
 - Infrastructure assets
 - Schools / Garages, including anticipated prior period adjustments
 - HRA assets
- Performance of additional fieldwork where methodology and regulatory expectations have increased since the time the work was originally completed:
 - Payroll expenditure
 - Journal postings
 - Housing benefit expenditure
 - Bank payments cut-off
- Understanding the Council's accounting considerations in respect of:
 - Software as a Service
 - Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete
 - The impact of COVID-19
- Completion of quality review processes:
 - External Quality Control Review and sign-off
 - Final financial reporting technical review sign-offs

Use of Resources

Our work and reporting on value-for-money (VfM) arrangements for 2019/20 is performed under the National Audit Office's Code of Audit Practice, 2015. At present we anticipate completing our work for 2019/20 alongside the completion of the 2019/20 accounts audit.



Outstanding audits

As outlined by the Comptroller and Auditor General last week we understand that the proposed backstop date for audits up to 31 March 2023 will be 30 September 2024. We are currently reviewing our portfolio of audits and capacity to identify which audits could to be completed by that date. We await detailed guidance from the senior stakeholders on the mechanics of the backstop process and will update audited bodies in February 2024 with our plans, including plans to deliver the required VfM work for periods up to 31 March 2023.

Ciaran McLaughlin, Partner and Engagement Lead
For and on behalf of **BDO LLP**, Appointed Auditor

18 January 2024