

REPORT TITLE: AUDIT COMPLETION REPORT 2022/23

28 NOVEMBER 2024

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Neil Cutler, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

Contact Officer: Liz Keys Tel No: 01962 848421 Email lkeys@winchester.gov.uk

WARD(S): ALL WARDS

PURPOSE

The *Completion Report for Those Charged with Governance* for the year ended 31 March 2023 is presented by the council's external auditors, Ernst & Young (EY). The report summarises the audit approach in this exceptional year, along with conclusions from the audit of the Financial Statements for 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Audit and Governance Committee:

1. Consider the matters presented in the auditor's report (Appendix 1) and take the opportunity to raise any points of clarification or concerns with EY, who will be present at the meeting.
2. Approves the *Letter of Representation* (Appendix 2)

1 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 1.1 The Completion Report for Those Charged With Governance for the year ended 31 March 2023 details the work the external auditor undertook and any audit differences or reporting issues they identified during the course of this review. EY's report is appended in full to this paper.
- 1.2 Only 1% of local government bodies received an auditor's opinion on their 2022/23 accounts by the publishing deadline 30th September 2023. The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) were amended in 2024 for financial years 2015-2027 as part of measures to address the audit backlog. The 2022/23 financial statements and those still outstanding from earlier years must be published by 13th December 2024. If local audits are not finalised by this deadline disclaimers of opinion will be issued.
- 1.3 The auditor has issued a disclaimer opinion on the council's 2022/23 Financial Statements as they have not performed sufficient audit procedures in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) by this date. There is no indication that the need to issue a disclaimer opinion relates to any specific unresolved issues at the council.
- 1.4 The auditors have no matters to report on our arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Appendix 2 – Letter of management representation 2022/23.