

AG174
AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

REPORT TITLE: 2024/25 AUDITORS ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

29 JANUARY 2026

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

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

WARD(S): ALL WARDS

PURPOSE

The *Audit Results Report* for the year ended 31 March 2025 is presented by the council's external auditors, Ernst & Young (EY). The report summarises the audit approach for this exceptional year, along with conclusions from the audit of the Financial Statements for 2024/25.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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)

IMPLICATIONS:

1 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 1.1 The Audit Results Report for the year ended 31 March 2025 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 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 2024/25 financial statements must be published by 27th February 2026.
- 1.3 The auditors anticipate issuing a disclaimed opinion on the council's 2024/25 Financial Statements, as they do not have sufficient assurance over all movements and balances to conclude that the 2024/25 financial statements are free from material and pervasive misstatement.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Audit Results Report for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Appendix 2 – Letter of management representation 2024/25.