

REPORT TITLE: AUDIT RESULTS REPORT 2023-24

25 FEBRUARY 2025

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 *Audit Results Report* for the year ended 31 March 2024 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 2023/24.

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)

## 1 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 1.1 The Audit Results Report for the year ended 31 March 2024 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 2023/24 financial statements must be published by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. The auditor plans to issue a disclaimed opinion on the council's 2023/24 Financial Statements as they have not performed sufficient audit procedures in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) by this date.

## APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Audit Results Report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Appendix 2 – Letter of management representation 2023/24.