

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of the Executive Director (Finance and Resources)

to

Audit Committee

on

21 October 2020

Agenda
Item No.

5

Report prepared by: Deloitte External Auditor

Deloitte: Updated report to the Audit Committee on the audit for the year ended 31 March 2020

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. This report summarises the final results of the work completed for the 2019/20 financial year with regard to:

- the opinion on the Statement of Accounts
- the conclusion on the adequacy of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the VFM conclusion).

2. Recommendation

1.2. The Committee accepts the updated Report to the Audit Committee on the audit for the year ended 31 March 2020.

3. Background

1.3. The Committee are reminded that the deadline for publication of the Statement of Accounts has been moved to 30 November because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1.4. A senior representative of Deloitte (the appointed External Auditor to the Council) will present this report to the Audit Committee and respond to Members' questions.

4. Corporate Implications

1.5. Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

Audit work provides assurance and identifies opportunities for improvements that contribute to the delivery of all Southend 2050 outcomes.

1.6. Financial Implications

The fee for the audit work is set by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited and agreed with the Council before the start of the audit. Issues arising during the course of the audit can impact on the audit fee payable.

1.7. Legal Implications

The Council is required by statute to have an external audit of its activities that complies with the requirements of the Code of Audit Practice (the Code) issued by the National Audit Office. By considering this report, the Committee can satisfy itself that this requirement is being discharged.

1.8. People Implications

None

1.9. Property Implications

None

1.10. Consultation

The contents of this report has been discussed and agreed with the Executive Director of Finance and Resources.

1.11. Equalities and Diversity Implications

None

1.12. Risk Assessment

Periodically considering whether the external auditor is delivering the agreed Annual Audit Plan helps mitigate the risk that this statutory requirement is not met.

1.13. Value for Money

The report includes the auditor's conclusion on the adequacy of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources (the VFM conclusion)

1.14. Community Safety Implications

None

1.15. Environmental Impact

None

5. Background Papers

None

6. Attachment: Deloitte Report to the Audit Committee on the audit for the year ended 31 March 2020 – dated October 2020