

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2019

Title of report	EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN
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Purpose of report	To approve the External Audit Plan
Council Priorities	Value for Money
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	The report outlines the fees that the Council will be charged in 2019/20 which are budgeted for.
Link to relevant CAT	None
Risk Management	The External Audit is an essential part of the Council's arrangements for compliance with laws and regulations, as well as maintaining good Value for Money.
Equalities Impact Screening	Not applicable
Human Rights	No direct implications.
Transformational Government	No direct implications.
Consultees	None
Background papers	None
Recommendations	THAT THE COMMITTEE NOTE THE EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR 2018/19

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Mazars LLP were appointed to audit the accounts of the Council for five years, for the accounts from 2018/19 to 2022/23. The appointment was made under regulation 13 of the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015, and was approved by the Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA Ltd) Board in December 2017. PSAA Ltd are a company incorporated by the Local Government Association to manage an opt-in scheme for public bodies in appointing auditors, setting scales of fees and ensuring effective management of contracts with audit firms for the delivery of external audit services.
- 1.2 Mazars LLP have provided the Audit Strategy Memorandum for the forthcoming audit of the Council's accounts, as attached at Appendix A. A representative from Mazars will be in attendance at the meeting to present their plan to the committee.
- 1.3 The Audit Strategy Memorandum focuses around two key objectives: the financial statements – providing an opinion on the accounts, including the Annual Governance Statement and narrative report; and use of resources – a conclusion on the arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Audit focus around specific financial statement and value for money risks are detailed within the Audit Plan.
- 1.4 The fees for undertaking the 2018/19 audit work (as detailed on page 15 of the Audit Strategy Memorandum) is £38,902, compared to the fees for 2017/18 which were £50,522.