

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting Scrutiny & Audit Panel

Date 26 November 2020

Title of Report External Auditor's Audit Results Report (ISA 260) and Statement of Accounts 2019/20

By Duncan Savage, Assistant Director Resources / Treasurer

Lead Officer: Duncan Savage, Assistant Director Resources / Treasurer

Background Papers None

Appendices

1. External Auditor's Audit Results Report (ISA260)
2. 2019/20 Statement of Accounts
3. Letter of representation

Implications

CORPORATE RISK		LEGAL	✓
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
FINANCIAL	✓	POLITICAL	
HEALTH & SAFETY		OTHER (please specify)	
HUMAN RESOURCES		CORE BRIEF	
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT			

PURPOSE OF REPORT To present the results of the External Auditor's Results Report (ISA 260) and to report an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY The Authority's External Auditor, Ernst & Young (EY), is obliged to produce an Audit Results Report (ISA 260) which reports formally on the outcome of the audit of the Authority's financial statements. The ISA 260 is attached as Appendix 1, as a separate document

EY has substantially completed its audit of the Authority's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020. Subject to concluding the outstanding matters listed in their report, EY expect to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements before the statutory deadline of 30 November 2020 and will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

It is pleasing to note that EY has made no recommendations for improvement as a result of its audit of the accounts, and raised no specific issues which require a response in the Letter of Representation.

The audit process this year has been a lengthy and challenging one for both the EY and ESFRS teams, primarily due to the impact of Covid 19.

A set of accounts is appended as Appendix 2. The letter of representation is appended as Appendix 3.

The ISA 260 confirms that the Authority has in place proper arrangements for securing value for money.

The indicative scale fee for the audit was £23,690. EY has proposed a fee variation of £4,342 as set out on p34 of the ARR taking the total cost to £28,032. This increase includes additional costs EY has incurred in revising its ways of working during the Covid 19 pandemic. It is officer's view that this element should have been offset in part by a reduction in travel and accommodation costs for the audit team. The proposed variation is subject to approval by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA).

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

- i. note the External Auditor's Audit Results Report (ISA 260);
 - ii. authorise the Assistant Director Resources / Treasurer and the Panel Chairman to sign the formal letter of representation to the External Auditor; and
 - iii. approve the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts for publication.
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