

## **25. EXTERNAL AUDIT- AUDIT PLANNING REPORT 2021-22**

Consideration was given to a report by Kevin Suter, Partner, Ernst & Young setting out the work they plan to complete to enable the issuing of the audit opinion on the financial statements, and the value for money commentary for 2021/22.

Members were advised that the report sets out items to bring to their attention with the dashboard hi-lighting those which require additional or a higher level of attention, due to a potential risk of fraud or complexity. This report was much the same as previously.

Following a Members question, they were advised that if the auditors missed the deadline of the end of November, a statement could be put on the website to that effect. The draft accounts are already prepped, and could be republished once the comment has been supplied. A report would be brought to the Policy and Organisation Board by March at the latest.

In answer to a Members question, Kevin Suter advised that with regard to property valuations being affected by inflation, much would depend on local circumstances. There was probably no relevance in regard to operational property, but investment properties would need to be looked at.

Members were advised that an Asset Review was being carried out by Property Services and the results would be brought to a future Policy and Organisation Board.

**RESOLVED:** That the Sub Board:

- Reviewed the Audit Planning Report 2021/22 and noted the risks and areas of focus identified and the planned response to them
- Recommended the Audit Planning Report 2021/22 to the Policy and Organisation Board as those charged with governance.