

<b>Board/Committee:</b>	Standards & Audit Sub Board
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	20 June 2024
<b>Title:</b>	2023/24 Audit Planning Report
<b>Author:</b>	External Audit / Ernst & Young
<b>Status:</b>	For noting

## **Purpose**

This report is the full 2023/24 External Audit Planning Report for the forthcoming meeting of the Standards and Audit Sub Board. The purpose of this report is to provide the Standards & Audit Sub Board of Gosport Borough Council with a basis to review our proposed audit approach and scope for the 2023/24 audit.

## **Recommendation**

That the Board considers and notes the report.

### **1.0 Background**

**1.1** This report is the full 2023/24 External Audit Planning Report for the forthcoming meeting of the Standards and Audit Sub Board. The purpose of this report is to provide the Standards & Audit Sub Board of Gosport Borough Council with a basis to review our proposed audit approach and scope for the 2023/24 audit.

### **2.0 Report**

**2.1** The report is issued in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the National Audit Office's 2020 Code of Audit Practice, the Statement of Responsibilities issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Ltd, auditing standards and other professional requirements, but also to ensure that the 2023/24 external audit is aligned with the Standards & Audit Sub Board's service expectations.

**2.2** The report summarises our assessment of the key issues which drive the development of an effective audit for the Council. We have aligned our audit approach and scope with these. The report also considers the likely impact of Government proposals to clear the backlog in local audit and put the local audit system on a sustainable footing. The joint statement on the update to proposals to clear the backlog and embed timely audit recognises that timely, high-quality financial reporting and audit of local bodies is a vital part of our democratic system. Not only does it support

good decision making by

local bodies, by enabling them to plan effectively, make informed decisions and manage their services, it ensures transparency and accountability to local taxpayers.

### **3.0 Risk Assessment**

**3.1** *N/A.*

### **4.0 Conclusion**

The Committee should consider and discuss the report and raise relevant questions. The final plan should be noted.

<b>Financial Services comments:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Legal Services comments:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Climate Change implications:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Crime and Disorder:</b>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Service Improvement Plan implications:</b>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	<i>N/A</i>
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Report Author/Lead Officer:</b>	<i>Author: Simon Mathers, Partner, EY Lead Officer: Nicola Nestor, Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer, Gosport Borough Council</i>