

Board/Committee:	Policy and Organisation Board
Date of meeting:	30 September 2024
Title:	2023/24 Interim Audit Results Report
Author:	External Audit / Ernst & Young
Status:	For discussion and noting by the Board.

Purpose

This report summarises the status of our 2023/24 audit. We will update the Policy and Organisation Board at its meeting scheduled for 30 September 2024 on further progress to that date and explain the remaining steps to the issue of our final opinion.

Recommendation

That the Board considers and notes the report

1.0 Background

1.1 This interim audit results report summarises the status of our 2023/24 audit. We will update the Policy and Organisation Board at its meeting scheduled for 30 September 2024 on further progress to that date and explain the remaining steps to the issue of our final opinion.

2.0 Report

2.1 The interim audit results report contains our provisional findings for the 2023/24 audit related to the areas of audit emphasis, and our views on Gosport Borough Council's accounting policies and judgements and material internal control findings, which will form the basis of our Audit Results Report to be issued in advance of the 2023/24 audit opinion.

2.2 It also provides an update on the Government's policy proposal for addressing the local government audit backlog as set out in the statement made to parliament on Tuesday 30 July 2024 by the new Minister of State responsible for Local Government and English Devolution. That statement outlines immediate actions the Government – together with the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), the National Audit Office (NAO) and organisations in the wider system – is taking, which are designed to address the backlog and put local audit on a sustainable footing. These now provide helpful clarity on the government's policy intentions and recognise the commitment of finance teams and auditors and the important role that we will all play to restore timely financial reporting.

3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 N/A

4.0 Conclusion

The Board should consider and discuss the report and raise relevant questions.

Financial Services comments:	None
Legal Services comments:	None
Equality and Diversity:	<i>N/A</i>
Climate Change implications:	<i>None</i>
Crime and Disorder:	<i>N/A</i>
Service Improvement Plan implications:	<i>N/A</i>
Corporate Plan:	<i>N/A</i>
Risk Assessment:	<i>N/A</i>
Background Papers:	<i>None</i>
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