

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>AUDIT PANEL</b>
<b>Date:</b>	14 March 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stuart Fair – Interim Director of Finance
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT</b>
<b>Report Summary:</b>	This report provides the Audit Panel with an update on the work undertaken by External Audit.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	Audit Panel are recommended to note the contents of the External Audit progress report.
<b>Corporate Plan:</b>	The Corporate Plan determines priorities for spending which is summarised in the statutory accounts.
<b>Policy Implications:</b>	There are no direct policy implications flowing from the Statement of Accounts.
<b>Financial Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer &amp; Chief Finance Officer)</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the External Audit Progress Report.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> <b>(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	<p>The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 sets out the framework for audit of local authorities. The overarching intention of the Act is to ensure appropriate monitoring and oversight of the council's accounts and includes the appointment of external auditors.</p> <p>Auditors and the planned audit approach will ensure that the Council's accounts comply with statutory requirements.</p>
<b>Risk Management:</b>	<p>The external audit provides verification of the Council's financial statements.</p> <p>By producing the annual Statement of Accounts, the Council aims to give all interested parties confidence that the public money that has been received and spent, has been properly accounted for and that the financial standing of the Council is secure.</p>
<b>Access to Information:</b>	The report is to be considered in public.
<b>Background Information:</b>	<p>The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Heather Green, Finance Business Partner</p> <p> Telephone: 0161 342 2929</p> <p> e-mail: <a href="mailto:heather.green@tameside.gov.uk">heather.green@tameside.gov.uk</a></p>