

Report to:	AUDIT PANEL
Date:	14 November 2019
Executive Member / Reporting Officer:	Councillor Ryan, Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth Kathy Roe – Director of Finance Karen Murray - External Audit Partner
Subject:	ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2018/19 AND EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT
Report Summary:	<p>The Annual Audit Letter summarises the work undertaken by External Audit as the auditor for Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2019. It summarises the work undertaken and conclusions formed in respect of the annual financial statements and value for money.</p> <p>The progress report provides the Audit Panel with an update on progress in delivering responsibilities as external auditors in respect of the 2019/20 financial year. The report also seeks to highlight at Section 2 key emerging national issues and developments, which may be of interest to Members of the Panel.</p>
Recommendations:	To note the Annual Audit Letter and Audit Progress Report from External Audit.
Corporate Plan:	This links to all aspect of the Corporate Plan.
Policy Implications:	There are no direct policy implications.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	There are no direct financial implications. The work of external audit provides a source of assurance to members over the financial reporting and financial position of the Council.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	This is the annual report/assessment prepared by our external auditors following the audit of the financial statements/accounts and consideration of the Council's financial resilience. It is a key tool is assessing how well the Council is performing in respect of its finance and governance. The forward looking section enables the Council to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 and understand what the external audit will be considering in making a judgement.
Risk Management:	The external auditor provides an opinion on the financial statements of the Council, including the Greater Manchester Pension Fund, and an assessment of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the value for money conclusion).
Access to Information:	The report is to be considered in public.

**Background
Information:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Heather Green



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Mazars LLP are the Council's external auditor. Their responsibilities are defined by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the 2014 Act) and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office (the NAO). These responsibilities include:

- The audit of the financial statements;
- Reporting on other information published with the financial statements;
- Reporting on the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the value for money conclusion); and
- Reporting to the NAO on the Council's Whole of Government Accounts return.

2. ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2018/19

2.1 The Annual Audit Letter summarises the work undertaken by Mazars LLP as the external auditor for Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2019. Although this letter is addressed to the Council, it is designed to be read by a wider audience including members of the public and other external stakeholders.

3. AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

3.1 This report provides the Audit Panel with an update on progress in delivering responsibilities as the Council's external auditors. The paper also seeks to highlight at Section 2 key emerging national issues and developments, which may be of interest to Members of the Panel.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 As set out at the front of the report.