

Blaby District Council

Audit & Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting	25 November 2024
Title of Report	Local Audit Backlog – Rebuilding Assurance
Report Author	Finance Group Manager

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 The report enables the Council's external auditors, Azets, to present members with the background regarding the outstanding prior year audits, measures that are proposed to address the backlog and the process of rebuilding assurance.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Azets' Local Audit Backlog – Rebuilding Assurance report is noted.

3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended

- 3.1 The Local Audit Backlog report provides members with the challenges being faced with the 2023/24 audit due to the outstanding Accounts, and the changes that are being required from the initial audit plan.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

The Council has the draft Financial Statements for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 outstanding. Backstop dates have been introduced for Auditors to have issued their Audit opinion on the outstanding accounts up to 2022/23 by 13th December 2024.

The Audit of the 2023/24 Accounts is currently being undertaken by Azets, however the Audit work that is being undertaken has been impacted by the prior year accounts being unaudited and the assurance that Azets are able to obtain from the opening balances of the accounts.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

None.

4.4 Significant Issues

None.

4.5 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

5. Environmental impact

No environmental impact.

6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

6.1 None directly arising from this report.

7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

7.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
That the auditor will not be able to obtain sufficient evidence to conclude that they have reasonable assurance that the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement.	A recovery period has been designed to allow auditors to rebuild assurance over multiple years following a disclaimed audit opinion.

8. Other options considered

8.1 None.

9. Appendix

9.1 Appendix A – Local Audit Backlog–Rebuilding Assurance

10. Background paper(s)

10.1 None.

11. Report author's contact details

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