

Blaby District Council

Audit and Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting 28 April 2025

Title of Report **External Audit Planning Report 2024/25**

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 their annual Audit Planning Report for 2024/25.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Azets Audit Planning Report for 2024/25 is approved.
- 2.2 That the Committee grants delegated authority to the Executive Director (Section 151) in consultation with the Chair of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee for any minor amendments to be made to the plan if required.

3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended

- 3.1 The Audit Planning Report sets out the proposed audit approach and the scope of the work to be carried out by Azets, and their fees for undertaking that work.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

Azets have set out their proposals for the planned audit work in respect of the 2024/25 financial year in the document attached at Appendix A. The coverage of the Audit Planning Report includes the following key elements:

- Audit scope and general approach
- Building back assurance
- Anticipated audit reports by year
- Financial statements audit timeline
- Materiality
- Significant risks of material misstatements
- Value for money
- Audit team and logistics
- Independence, objectivity and other services provided
- Fees

Representatives from Azets will attend the meeting to present their report.

At the time of writing this report officers have not had sufficient time to review and respond to the Audit plan, therefore to enable this to be undertaken, it is requested for delegated authority to the Executive Director (Section 151) in consultation with the Chair of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee for any minor amendments to be made and agreed if required.

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

- 5.1 The base fee for the audit has been set at £154,383 by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA). In addition to this, there is a proposed fee for the Housing Benefit Assurance Process (HBAP) of £28,000.

Additional fees yet to be confirmed include work in relation to IFRS16 (leasing), the work required following the disclaimed audits in the prior years and the building back assurance work.

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

6.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Risks are incorporated within the Audit Plan at Appendix A	See Appendix A.

7. Other options considered

- 7.1 None. It is considered good practice to make the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee aware of the External Audit Plan.

8. Other significant issues

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

9. Appendix

- 9.1 Appendix A – Blaby District Council Audit Plan 2024-25

10. Background paper(s)

None.

11. Report author's contact details

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