

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday 22 September 2020

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL AUDIT RESULTS REPORT 2018/19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Comptroller and Auditor General's Code of Audit Practice requires Ernst and Young LLP (EY) to report to this Committee on the work they have carried out in respect of Suffolk Coastal District Council to discharge their statutory audit responsibilities together with any governance issues identified.
2. EY expect to issue an unqualified audit opinion. Due to continuing work regarding an objection to the accounts, EY are yet to issue their opinion as to whether Suffolk Coastal DC made appropriate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All Wards in East Suffolk
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Maurice Cook Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources
Supporting Officer:	Simon Taylor Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer 01394 444570 simon.taylor@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Audit Results Report (Appendix A) produced by the External Auditor, EY, summarises the findings from the 2018/19 audit which is substantially complete. The report includes the messages arising from the audit of the financial statements and the results of the work they have undertaken to assess arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources.

2 AUDIT FINDINGS

- 2.1 EY expect to issue an unqualified audit opinion. Due to continuing work regarding an objection to the accounts, EY are yet to issue their opinion as to whether Suffolk Coastal DC made appropriate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources.
- 2.2 The audit has identified a number of adjusted and unadjusted differences, which are detailed within Section 4 of Appendix A.
- 2.3 EY states within Section 7 of Appendix A that they have not identified any significant weaknesses in the design or operation of Suffolk Coastal DC's internal controls that might result in a material error within the financial statements.
- 2.4 Regarding Value for Money, EY have judged within Section 5 of Appendix A that subject to receiving a satisfactory response to inquiries in respect of an objection to the accounts that they expect to have no matters to report about your arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the use of resources.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 There have been ongoing updates during the financial year with the Audit team and key stakeholders.

4 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK STRATEGIC PLAN?

- 4.1 The Audit Results Report is a statutory requirement by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Audit Results Report does not link directly to the Vision of the Business Plan, but through securing external assurance over the Council's governance, financial statements and value for money, this will help to achieve the critical success factors and planned actions set out in the Business Plan.

5 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There have been a limited number of material issues raised from the audit and none of these have an impact on the financial position of Suffolk Coastal DC as at 31 March 2019.

6 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 6.1 None.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None.

8 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The consideration of the External Auditors report is a statutory requirement under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the findings within the Audit Results report in respect of Suffolk Coastal District Council for 2018/19.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Suffolk Coastal DC Audit Results Report 2018/19
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None