

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Auditor's Annual Report for 2021/22 and 2022/23	
REPORT OF: Executive Director Corporate Services	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Audit and Corporate Governance Committee	DATE: 20 February 2025
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT: This report presents to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee the Auditor's Annual Report following the completion of the audits for the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years.</p> <p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – ACCESS TO INFORMATION No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>CONTACT OFFICER: Raj Shah Chief Accountant 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Telephone: 020 7974 6378 raj.shah@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The Audit & Corporate Governance Committee is asked to note the Annual Audit Report covering the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years, presented at Appendix A.</p>	
<p>SIGNED: Approved by Director of Finance</p>	
<p>DATE: 11 February 2025</p>	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report presents to the Committee the Auditor's Annual Report (AAR), summarising the work undertaken by the council's external auditor Forvis Mazars for the years ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023.
- 1.2. Within its terms of reference the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee has responsibility for overseeing internal and external audit, and specifically to consider the external auditor's annual letter, annual audit plans, and other relevant reports reporting to those charged with governance.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Audit Completion Reports for both 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years have already been presented, and the audits concluded. The AAR is an additional requirement for auditors, brought in under the 2020 Audit Code. Auditors are required to prepare an annual report and issue it to each audited body. The auditor's annual report brings together all of the auditor's work over the year, to be presented at an appropriate forum at the body (in Camden's instance, the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee) and be made available on the authority's website.
- 2.2. A core element of the auditor's annual report involves commentary on the organisation's arrangements to secure value for money (VFM) through the economic, efficient and effective use of its resources, and highlight any issues that the auditor wishes to draw to the attention of the body or the wider public.
- 2.3. The AAR was issued to Camden immediately following the conclusion of the audits.

3. Auditor's Annual Report

- 3.1. The Auditor's Annual Report presented in **Appendix A** covers the financial years ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023.
- 3.2. The report presents the opinions provided on the accounts of the Council for those financial years, with an unqualified opinion on the 2021/22 accounts, and due to limitation of scope, a disclaimer of opinion on 2022/23 accounts. This has already been presented and discussed by the Committee as part of the Audit Completion Reports.
- 3.3. The AAR goes into greater depth on their assessment of Camden's VFM arrangements, not presented in the Audit Completion Report. The National Audit Office (NAO) issues guidance to auditors that sets out the reporting criteria on which they need to consider, being:
 - Financial Sustainability
 - Governance; and
 - Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness

- 3.4. In each of these considerations Forvis Mazars have identified no risk of significant weakness, no actual significant weakness, and make no other recommendations.
- 3.5. In 2020/21 Forvis Mazars reported a significant weakness within its VFM findings due to the timeliness and quality of financial reporting following the changes and delays to the accounts for that year. They now report that they are satisfied that Camden has addressed this issue. Officers have worked hard to make the improvements in this area and the audit conclusion provides assurance that this has been effective.

4. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 4.1. This is a report of the Executive Director Corporate Services and his views are incorporated into this report.

5. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 5.1. The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to add.

6. Environmental Implications

- 6.1. There are no environmental implications.

7. Appendices

Appendix A: Auditor's Annual Report – years ended 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023

REPORT ENDS