



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

Item 21/05

MEETING	Finance & Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	3 March 2021
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	External Audit update 2020-21
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For Information
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>Deloitte LLP is our external auditor, appointed by Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA), and mandated through statute to complete an audit of the Authority.</p> <p>We have now received the Annual Audit Letter in relation to the 2019-20 financial year, which can be found at Appendix A.</p> <p>Deloitte LLP have also submitted their External Audit Plan for 2020-21 (Appendix B).</p> <p>The External Audit Plan highlights the significant audit risk areas and references a number of key changes to auditing arrangements that are applicable from the 2020-21 financial year onwards, and covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new requirements around Value for Money</li> <li>• recommendations from the Redmond Review</li> <li>• revisions to auditing standards.</li> </ul> <p>These changes are likely to result in an increase in the level of audit fee payable by the Authority. The Government is providing additional funding of £15m in 2021-22 to help authorities to meet the higher fees. We have not yet received the details of our allocation.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	The agreed base audit fee for 2020-21 is £34,650, as set by PSAA under a defined schedule of fees and charges. This remains unchanged from 2019-20, but as indicated there are likely to be additional fees as a result of changing audit requirements.
RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Receive and note the Annual Audit Letter for 2019-20.</li><li>2. Receive and comment on the External Audit plan for 2020-21, in particular the significant audit risks highlighted and changing audit requirements.</li></ol>
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None
APPENDICES	Appendix A - Annual Audit Letter 2019-20 Appendix B - Planning report to the Finance and Audit Committee on the 2020-21 audit
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