

Audit Progress Update

Audit Fieldwork

- Charles Martin has taken over as the Key Audit Partner for the external audit for the Authority, and he will ultimately sign-off the audit opinion for 2024/25, with Nathan Coughlin becoming the relationship partner. We have done introductions and discussed these changes with the finance team.
- We have been able to make a start on the audit fieldwork earlier than planned due to resource coming free from another audit.
- We have completed the routine work on the Authority's value for money arrangements. The risk of significant weakness in relation to the HMICFRS report is yet to be completed. We have not identified any additional risks.
- Our main phase of audit fieldwork commenced on 1 September 2025, after the submission of this progress paper to the Finance & Audit Committee.
- Engagement from the finance team to date has been positive and we continue to enjoy a good relationship with officers. We expect the audit fieldwork to continue to progress in a timely manner on this basis.

Next Steps

- We expect to complete the majority of our audit fieldwork in September and October 2025 with our audit completion report to be presented to the November 2025 meeting of the Finance & Audit Committee .
- As in previous years, we will require assurances from the auditor of the Wiltshire Pension Fund (Grant Thornton). We have sent the appropriate requests to the Key Audit Partner. They hope to be able to issue us with a full response to our request for assurance in a timely manner.
- There has been a minor change to the audit regulations for 2024/25 and we are now required to issue our Auditor's Annual Report (AAR) prior to issuing the audit opinion. In previous years the audit opinion could be issued with the AAR to be presented later. We do not anticipate this impacting the Authority as we plan to present the AAR at the November 2025 meeting ahead of our opinion being signed.

Fees Update

- Our Audit Plan included two provisional fee amounts for IFRS 16 and the impact of the 2022/23 qualification on the pension liability.
- For the 2022/23 qualification, PSAA have recently agreed a fee variation of £1,500 for the 2023/24 audit year. We anticipate a similar amount for this year in 2024/25, subject to completion of the work by ourselves and discussion with PSAA.
- We cannot yet quantify the fee amount for IFRS 16 as this will be based on the audit work required to complete it, which will differ at each authority depending on their individual lease arrangements, the existence of PFI schemes etc. We will discuss the fee amount with the finance team first, and upon agreement report to the Finance & Audit Committee.



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