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| Report title: Draft 2020/21 Audit Completion Report for Essex County Council | |
| Report to Audit, Governance and Standards Committee | |
| Report author: Nicole Wood, Executive Director, Corporate Services | |
| Date of meeting: 21 March 2022 | For: Noting |
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| Divisions affected: All Essex | |

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present BDO's Draft 2020/21 Audit Completion Report for the Council, as appended.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 None – the report is for information only.

3. Background and proposals

- 3.1 The responsibilities of auditors are derived from statute, principally the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice 2020.
- 3.2 The NAO Code of Audit Practice requires BDO to report to those charged with governance – the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee – on the work they have carried out to discharge their statutory audit responsibilities.
- 3.3 The attached report summarises the results of completing the planned audit approach, and the specific audit findings. However, the report is marked as 'draft' because of a residual issue relating to the carrying value of infrastructure assets. BDO cannot finalise the audit until this matter is resolved. This is a national issue impacting on all highway authorities.
- 3.4 BDO welcome the opportunity to discuss this report with the Committee.

4. Policy context and Outcomes Framework

- 4.1** The Audit Completion Report provides a summary of the findings from BDO's audit work on the financial statements of Essex County Council.
- 4.2** The Statement of Accounts provides a financial representation of activities against the Organisation Strategy.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The Audit Completion Report sets out the fees payable by the Council in relation to the 2020/21 audit. The fees may be higher than reported though, because BDO are not yet able to quantify the additional fees payable in relation to the new Use of Resources approach.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1** There are no legal implications associated with this report.

7. Staffing and other resource implications

- 7.1** There are no staffing or other resource implications associated with this report.

8. Equality and Diversity implications

- 8.1** There are no equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

9. List of appendices

- 9.1** Draft 2020/21 Audit Completion Report for Essex County Council.

10. List of Background Papers

- 10.1** None