



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Overview and Audit Committee – 21 July 2021

Report title: Ernst & Young Audit Plan 2020/21

Lead Member: Chairman of the Overview and Audit Committee

Report sponsor: Mark Hemming, Director of Finance and Assets

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Action: Noting

Recommendations: That the Audit Plan 2020/21 (Annex A) be noted.

Executive summary:

The report at Annex A sets out the plan of activity for the Authority's external auditors, Ernst & Young, for their work in relation to the financial year 2020/21.

Financial implications: The external audit fee is included within the current budget. Whilst there are no directly applicable matters as part of this report, a key element of the service provided by Ernst & Young is to provide an opinion on the financial integrity of the Authority. This will include such issues as the arrangements for setting, reviewing and implementing strategic and operational objectives; performance monitoring, including budget monitoring; achievement of strategic objectives and best value performance indicators. This will also include associated issues such as medium-term financial planning, management of the asset base and the arrangements to promote and ensure probity and propriety.

Risk management: The work carried out by Ernst & Young and their opinion of the Authority's financial integrity and ability to provide council taxpayers with value for money, is an essential part of the authority's governance arrangements and a key element of the annual Statement of Assurance.

Legal implications: None

Privacy and security implications: None

Duty to collaborate: None

Health and safety implications: None

Environmental implications: None

Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications: None

Consultation and communication: None

Background papers:

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Annex A – Ernst & Young Audit Plan 2020/21	