

## **Mazars Procurement Issues Report**

### **Summary**

1. The paper attached at Annex A from Mazars, the Council's external auditors, reports on issues arising from the objection to the 2015/16 accounts. The report covers the work undertaken to investigate the issues raised by the objection and the key findings.

### **Analysis**

2. Mazars considered two procurements raised in the objection, received representations from officers and discussed the issues raised with the Council's internal auditors, Veritau.
3. Their findings are that the Council could properly support the procurement processes in relation to one of those procurements, but was unable to provide evidence to support the procurement processes in relation to one local supplier for consultancy work. This was because the officer who led this procurement did not retain the relevant records and has now left the employment of the Council.
4. The Director of Customer and Corporate Services (CCS) had already asked Veritau to undertake a detailed review into the issues that arose from this procurement and Mazars have reviewed the detailed investigation report produced by Veritau and, based on their discussions and review of that report, are satisfied that Veritau have carried out a comprehensive review and reached reasonable conclusions based on the evidence available.
5. The report also acknowledge that whilst the Veritau report identifies a number of breaches of Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules in relation to the procurement processes, these issues had

already been identified by the Council and actions were in progress prior to the commencement of the Veritau review.

6. They conclude that, whilst the objector has raised some valid concerns around the procurement processes in the case of the payments to the local supplier for consultancy work, they do not intend to issue a report in the public interest. This is because they have recognised that a comprehensive action plan is in place to address the issues. The Veritau report notes that the Council had already agreed and begun to deliver a comprehensive range of actions to address the issues arising and Mazars have no additional recommendations to make.

### **Consultation**

7. Extensive consultation has taken place with Veritau and a range of Council officers.

### **Options**

8. Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

### **Analysis**

9. Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

### **Council Plan**

10. This report contributes to the overall effectiveness of the council's governance and assurance arrangements contributing to an 'Effective Organisation'.

### **Implications**

11. There are no implications to this report.

### **Risk Management**

12. Not relevant for the purpose of the report

### **Recommendations**

13. Members are asked to:

- a) note the matters set out in the report presented by Mazars;

Reason

*To ensure Members are aware of the issues and the action already being taken by the Council.*

**Contact Details**

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 14 February 2017

**Specialist Implications Officers**

**Wards Affected:** Not applicable

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Background Papers:**

None

**Annexes**

Annex A - Mazars Procurement Issues Report February 2017