

Audit Completion Report

West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Year ended 31 March 2021

September 2021



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Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'Statement of Responsibilities of auditors and audited bodies' and the 'Appointing Person Terms of Appointment' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to the Authority are prepared for the sole use of the Authority and we take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any third party. Mazars LLP is the UK firm of Mazars, an international advisory and accountancy group. Mazars LLP is registered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.



Governance and Audit Committee
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Wellington House
Leeds
LS1 2DE

Mazars LLP
5th Floor
3 Wellington Place
LS1 4AP

22 September 2021

Dear Committee Members

Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2021

We are pleased to present our Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2021. The purpose of this document is to summarise our audit conclusions.

The scope of our work, including identified significant audit risks and other areas of management judgement, was outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum which we presented on 18 March 2021. We have reviewed our Audit Strategy Memorandum and concluded that the original significant audit risks and other areas of management judgement remain.

We would like to express our thanks for the assistance of your team during our audit.

If you would like to discuss any matters in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0113 394 5316.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Dalton".

Mark Dalton
Mazars LLP

01

Section 01:

Executive summary

1. Executive summary

Principal conclusions and significant findings

The detailed scope of our work as your appointed auditor for 2020/21 is set out in the National Audit Office's (NAO) Code of Audit Practice. Our responsibilities and powers are derived from the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and, as outlined in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, our audit has been conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and means we focus on audit risks that we have assessed as resulting in a higher risk of material misstatement.

In section 4 of this report we have set out our conclusions and significant findings from our audit. This section includes our conclusions on the audit risks and areas of management judgement in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, which include:

- Management override of controls;
- Net defined benefit liability valuations; and
- Valuation of property plant and equipment.

Section 5 sets out internal control recommendations and section 6 sets out audit misstatements. Section 7 outlines our work on the Authority's arrangements to achieve economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Status and audit opinion

We have substantially completed our audit in respect of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. At the time of preparing this report, some elements of our work remains in progress. These are detailed in section 2 with page 7 highlighting the status of the audit work in progress and page 8 highlighting our standard closure procedures that will also need to be completed before signing the auditor's report.

We will provide an update to you in relation to the matters outstanding through issuance of a follow up letter, prior to signing the auditor's report.



Audit opinion

We anticipate issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, on the financial statements. Our proposed audit opinion is included in the draft auditor's report in Appendix B.



Value for Money

We anticipate having no significant weaknesses in arrangements to report in relation to the arrangements that the Authority has in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Further detail on our Value for Money work is provided in section 7 of this report.



Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

At the time of writing, we have not yet received group instructions from the National Audit Office in respect of our work on the Authority's WGA submission. We are unable to commence our work in this area until such instructions have been received.



Wider powers

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Authority and to consider any objection made to the accounts. We have not received any objections or questions from local electors.







02


Section 02:


Status of the audit


2. Status of the audit

Our work is substantially complete and there are currently no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion, subject to the outstanding matters detailed below.

Audit area	Status	Description of the outstanding matters
Expenditure		We are awaiting evidence to support a low number of expenditure items.
Property plant and equipment		Work is substantially complete in this area and we are considering evidence to support our testing of valuation, rights of ownership and existence.
Investments		We are awaiting 3 rd party confirmations to support our testing of investments.
Pension fund liability valuation		Work is substantially complete in this area, however we are awaiting responses to our enquiries of the Pension Fund's auditor to enable us to complete our work in this area.

 Likely to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements.


 Potential to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements.


 Not considered likely to result in material adjustment or change to disclosures within the financial statements.


2. Status of the audit

The following standard closure procedures also need to be completed before signing the auditor's report

Audit area	Status	Description of the outstanding matters
Final versions of the Annual Report and Annual Governance Statement		We will review the final versions of the Annual Report and Annual Governance Statement. This includes our final review of the financial statements.
Letter of Representation		Receipt of signed letter of management representation
Post balance sheet events		Review of post balance sheet events up to the point at which we sign our audit report.
Whole of government accounts		Completion of audit procedures supporting the WGA return to the NAO.
Audit review and quality control		Completion of Manager and Partner review and Mazars quality control processes in respect of the audit.

 Likely to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements.

 Potential to result in material adjustment or significant change to disclosures within the financial statements.

 Not considered likely to result in material adjustment or change to disclosures within the financial statements.

We will provide the Governance and Audit Committee with an update in relation to these outstanding matters in a follow-up letter, prior to signing the auditor's report.



03

Section 03: **Audit approach**

3. Audit approach

Changes to our audit approach

We provided details of our intended audit approach in our Audit Strategy Memorandum in March 2021. We have not made any changes to our audit approach since we presented our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Materiality

Our provisional materiality at the planning stage of the audit was set at £5.5m using a benchmark of approximately 2% of gross operating expenditure. Our final assessment of materiality, based on the final financial statements, is £7m using the same benchmark.

Use of experts

Our audit approach in respect of management and auditor experts is consistent with that set out in our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Item of account	Management’s expert	Our expert
Defined benefit liability	AON Hewitt	We reviewed the work of PwC, the consulting actuary, on behalf of National Audit Office
Property, plant and equipment valuation	Lambert Smith Hampton (LSH)	We have taken into account relevant information which is available from third parties.
Financial instrument disclosures	Link Asset Services	We have reviewed Link Asset Services' methodology to gain assurance that the fair value disclosures of the Authority's financial assets and liabilities are materially correct.

There are no reporting matters to highlight from our consideration of the work of experts.

Service organisations

Our audit approach in respect of service organisations is consistent with that set out in our Audit Strategy Memorandum.

Items of account	Service organisation	Audit approach
Treasury management (affecting bank balances, investments and borrowing)	Leeds City Council	We have obtained appropriate audit evidence from third parties.

There are no reporting matters to highlight from our consideration of the work of service organisations.



04

Section 04: **Significant findings**

4. Significant findings

In this section we outline the significant findings from our audit. These findings include:

- our audit conclusions regarding other significant risks and key areas of management judgement outlined in the Audit Strategy Memorandum;
- our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures that you have adopted in the financial statements. On page 15 we have concluded whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework and commented on any significant accounting policy changes that have been made during the year;
- any further significant matters discussed with management; and
- any significant difficulties we experienced during the audit.

Significant risks

Management override of controls	Description of the risk
	This is a mandatory significant risk on all audits due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur.
	Management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur there is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud on all audits.
	How we addressed this risk We addressed this risk through performing audit work over: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accounting estimates impacting amounts included in the financial statements;• Consideration of identified significant transactions outside the normal course of business; and• Journals recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in preparation of the financial statements.
Audit conclusion Subject to the satisfactory completion of the work highlighted in section 2 of this report, we do not expect there to be any matters to report in respect of management override of controls.	

4. Significant findings

Significant risks (continued)

Valuation of land and buildings	<p>Description of the risk</p> <p>Land, buildings and infrastructure are the Authority’s highest value assets accounting for £59.2 million of the Authority’s £86.1 million Property, Plant and Equipment balance in 2020-21. The CIPFA Code requires that where assets are subject to revaluation, their year end carrying value should reflect the appropriate fair value at that date.</p> <p>Management engages LSH as an expert to assist in determining the fair value of land and buildings to be included in the financial statements, however there remains a high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with the valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment due to the significant judgements and number of variables involved.</p> <p>How we addressed this risk</p> <p>We evaluated the design and implementation of any controls which mitigate the risk. This included liaising with management to update our understanding on the approach taken by the Trust in its valuation of land and buildings. We:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• assessed the scope and terms of engagement with the Valuer;• assessed the competence, skills and objectivity of the Valuer;• assessed how management use the Valuer’s report to value land and buildings included in the financial statements;• tested the accuracy of the data used in valuations;• challenged the Authority and Valuer’s assumptions and judgements applied in the valuations;• reviewed the valuation methodology used, including the appropriateness of the valuation basis;• considered the reasonableness of the valuation by comparing the valuation output with market intelligence; and <p>In line with 2019/20 and the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, we will considered the valuation approach and whether a material uncertainty disclosure should have been reported in 2020/21.</p> <p>Audit conclusion</p> <p>Our work on the valuation of the Authority’s land and buildings is ongoing (as set out in Section 2), We will report any issues to the Committee at its meeting and within our follow-up letter.</p> <p>We have confirmed there is no further material valuation uncertainty disclosure required for 2020/21.</p>
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4. Significant findings

Significant risks (continued)

Net defined pension liability valuation	<div data-bbox="491 258 2379 315">Description of the risk The defined benefit liability relating to the Local Government pension scheme represents a significant balance on the Authority's balance sheet.</div> <div data-bbox="491 344 2379 401">The Authority uses an actuary to provide an annual valuation of these liabilities in line with the requirements of IAS 19 Employee Benefits. Due to the high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with this valuation, we have determined there is a significant risk in this area.</div> <div data-bbox="491 429 2379 801">How we addressed this risk We have addressed this risk by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">critically assessing the competency, objectivity and independence of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund's Actuary, Aon Hewitt;liaising with the auditors of the West Yorkshire Pension Fund to gain assurance that the controls in place at the Pension Fund are operating effectively. This included the processes and controls in place to ensure data provided to the Actuary by the Pension Fund for the purposes of the IAS 19 valuation is complete and accurate;reviewed the appropriateness of the Pension Asset and Liability valuation methodologies applied by the Pension Fund Actuary, and the key assumptions included within the valuation. This included comparing them to expected ranges, utilising information by the consulting actuary engaged by the National Audit Office; andagreed the data in the IAS 19 valuation report provided by the Fund Actuary for accounting purposes to the pension accounting entries and disclosures in the Authority's financial statements.<div data-bbox="491 772 2379 801">In line with 2019/20 and the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, we monitored the valuation approach to assess if a material uncertainty disclosure will be required for 2020/21.</div></div> <div data-bbox="491 815 2379 961">Audit conclusion Our work on the valuation of the Authority's net pension liability valuation is ongoing (as set out in Section 2), We will report any issues to the Committee at its meeting and within our follow-up letter. We have confirmed there is no further material valuation uncertainty disclosure required for 2020/21.</div>
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4. Significant findings

Qualitative aspects of the Authority’s accounting practices

We received the draft accounts from the Authority on the 27 June 2021. Our review of accounting policies and disclosures has not highlighted any significant issues, which could impact on the reader of the accounts understanding of the Authority’s financial position. However, we have noted some minor departures from the suggested presentation and content in the 2020/21 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. Management have agreed to update their financial statements template in preparation for the Mayoral Combined Authority financial statements in 2021/22, to ensure they are consistent with the latest Code.

Significant matters discussed with management

Significant matters discussed with management during the course of our audit included:

- Due to the impact of the pandemic on the Authority’s income and expenditure, the Government has provided significant financial support to the sector. Use of management judgement has been required in relation to determining whether the recognition criteria has been met. We have therefore tested the accounting treatment of Covid-19 support grants, to ensure they have been accurately disclosed in the 2020/21 financial statements;
- As a result of independent quality reviews, in particular by the Financial Reporting Council, of our audit work and that of other audit suppliers we have needed to increase the level of work we do on defined benefit pension schemes and valuation of property, plant and equipment. This and other issues emerging during the year have had an impact on the fee required to complete the audit and we will discuss any fee variation request with management on completion of our audit work and update the Committee. As set out in our ASM all fee variation requests are subject to approval from PSAA; and
- In 2021/22 the Authority takes on additional responsibilities and services, as it transforms to become a Mayoral Combined Authority. Our discussions with management have therefore focused on changes to the Authority’s financial reporting and governance arrangements.

There are no additional matters in relation to these discussions that we need to highlight in this section of our report.

Significant difficulties during the audit

During the course of the audit we did not encounter any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management. It is however worth noting that our audit work has been carried out through remote working arrangements as a result of the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst challenging at times, through the effective use of technology and close liaison with finance and other officers of the Authority these challenges were overcome. We would like to thank the Finance Team for the quality of their supporting working papers and for being available throughout the audit work to answer our queries.

Wider responsibilities

Our powers and responsibilities under the 2014 Act are broad and include the ability to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law; and
- issue an advisory notice under schedule 8 of the 2014 Act.

We have not exercised any of these powers as part of our 2020/21 audit.

The 2014 Act also gives rights to local electors and other parties, such as the right to ask questions of the auditor and the right to make an objection to an item of account. No such questions or objections have been raised.



05

Section 05:

Internal control recommendations

5. Internal control recommendations

The purpose of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit we have considered the internal controls in place relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and that we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported. If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control we might have identified more deficiencies to be reported or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported. Our comments should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

We have not made any control recommendations in 2020/21.



5. Internal control recommendations

Follow up on previous internal control points

Description of deficiency

The Authority does not record 'yellow' bus values individually in the fixed asset register, the value is recorded as an aggregate balance. While this deficiency is unlikely to have a material impact, it does require additional procedures when calculating proceeds from disposals and other capital charges.

Potential effects

During our testing of fixed asset disposals relating to yellow buses we were unable to trace individual disposal values to the fixed asset register to ascertain its net book value. As yellow buses are shown in the fixed asset register as an aggregate balance, it is a difficult and time-consuming process to obtain sufficient audit evidence to support disposals and other capital charges included in the accounts.

Recommendation

We recommend that this type of asset is recorded individually in the fixed asset register, to improve accuracy and reduce the time required to obtain audit evidence relating to this type of asset.

2020/21 update

In the prior year, management agreed to add any new additions to the register on an individual asset basis. In 2020/21 there were no additions, therefore the control has not been tested.

06

Section 06:

Summary of misstatements

6. Summary of misstatements

This section outlines the misstatements identified during the course of the audit, above the trivial threshold for adjustment of £0.21m.

The first section below outlines the misstatements that were identified during the course of our audit which management has assessed as not being material either individually or in aggregate to the financial statements and does not currently plan to adjust.

The second section outlines the misstatements that have been adjusted by management during the course of the audit.

Unadjusted misstatements

To date there are no unadjusted misstatements.

Adjusted misstatements

To date our work has highlighted one adjusted misstatement above our trivial threshold (£0.21m):

- As part of our property, plant and equipment disposals testing, the Authority had recognised a loss on disposal totalling £0.36m in 2020/21. We noted the disposal took place in April 2021 and therefore it should be recorded as a transaction in 2021/22. The error is isolated and management has now adjusted for this error.

Disclosure amendments

The following disclosure amendments have been agreed with management:

- Note 10 (Officers' remuneration and members allowances) – as part of our testing we noted that the Authority had recorded 4 senior officers in the banding £80,001 to £85,000. Review of payroll records confirmed there is only 3;
- Note 10.4 (Costs of redundancies and other leavers) – the note has been updated to include payment in lieu of notice costs (totalling £9.9k), which had been omitted from the draft accounts; and
- Note 9 (Non-specific grant income) – as part of our testing, we noted £0.878m of income allocated to the line 'ULEV Bus Scheme - Department for Transport', review of the records confirmed it should have been recorded as taxi scheme.

In addition to the above, we did identified a small number of minor presentational issues during our audit and these have been amended by the Authority.

If any misstatements are identified on completion of the outstanding audit work highlighted in section 2, these will be reported to the Audit Committee in a follow-up letter.



07

Section 07: **Value for Money**

7. Value for Money

Approach to Value for Money

We are required to consider whether the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The NAO issues guidance to auditors that underpins the work we are required to carry out and sets out the reporting criteria that we are required to consider. The reporting criteria are:

- **Financial sustainability** - How the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services
- **Governance** - How the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks
- **Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness** - How the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services

At the planning stage of the audit, we undertake work to understand the arrangements that the Authority has in place under each of the reporting criteria and we identify risks of significant weaknesses in those arrangements. Although we describe this work as planning work, we keep our understanding of arrangements under review and update our risk assessment throughout the audit to reflect emerging issues that may suggest significant weaknesses in arrangements exist.

The table overleaf outlines the risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements that we have identified, the risk-based procedures we have undertaken, and the results of our work.

Where our risk-based procedures identify actual significant weaknesses in arrangements we are required to report these and make recommendations for improvement. Where such significant weaknesses are identified, we report these in the audit report.

The primary output of our work on the Authority's arrangements is the commentary on those arrangements that forms part of the Auditor's Annual Report. We intend to issue the Auditor's Annual Report within the 3 months of issuing our audit opinion on the financial statements, consistent with NAO guidance.

Status of our work

We are yet to complete our work in respect of the Authority's arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2021. At the time of preparing this report, we have not identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements that require us to make a recommendation, however we continue to undertake work on the Authority's arrangements.

Our draft audit report at Appendix B outlines that we have not yet completed our work in relation to the Authority's arrangements. As noted above, our commentary on the Authority's arrangements will be provided in the Auditor's Annual Report within 3 months of issuing our audit opinion on the financial statements, consistent with NAO guidance.

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Appendices

A: Draft management representation letter

B: Draft audit report

C: Independence

D: Other communications

Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Mazars LLP
5th Floor
3 Wellington Place
LS1 4AP

[Date]

Dear Mark

West Yorkshire Combined Authority - audit for year ended 31 March 2021

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of West Yorkshire Combined Authority for the year ended 31 March 2021 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (the Code) and applicable law.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code and applicable law.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within West Yorkshire Combined Authority you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

I confirm as Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information.

As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.



Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Board and committee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with Code and International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on West Yorkshire Combined Authority’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value

I confirm that any significant assumptions used by West Yorkshire Combined Authority in making accounting estimates, including those measured at current or fair value, are reasonable.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against West Yorkshire Combined Authority have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the Code and applicable law.

Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Authority has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.



Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility as Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting West Yorkshire Combined Authority involving:
 - management and those charged with governance;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting West Yorkshire Region Combined Authority’s financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code and applicable law.

I have disclosed to you the identity of West Yorkshire Combined Authority’s related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Charges on assets

All the Authority’s assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

Future commitments

I am not aware of any plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.



Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code and applicable law, require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Covid-19

I confirm that we have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of the Covid-19 Virus pandemic on the organisation, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and that the disclosures in the Narrative Report fairly reflects that assessment.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that West Yorkshire Region Combined Authority will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

Unadjusted misstatements (if uncorrected misstatements are identified through completion of the outstanding audit work detailed on pages 7 and 8)

I confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix.

Yours faithfully
Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer).....



Appendix B: Draft audit report

Independent auditor’s report to the members of West Yorkshire Combined Authority (DRAFT)

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of West Yorkshire Combined Authority ('the Authority') for the year ended 31 March 2021, which comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2021 and of the Authority’s expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Authority in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer)’ use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.



Appendix B: Draft audit report (continued)

Other information

The Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) is also responsible for such internal control as the Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, on the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer) is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Authority to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Based on our understanding of the Authority and the Group, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Local Government Act 2003 (and associated regulations made under section 21) and the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (and associated regulations made under section 32), and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.



Appendix B: Draft audit report (continued)

We evaluated the Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer)' incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to those identified risks, including non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) and fraud that are material to the financial statements. Our audit procedures included but were not limited to:

- discussing with management and the Audit and Governance Committee the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- considering the risk of acts by the Authority and the Group which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- making enquiries of management and the Audit and Governance Committee on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management and the Audit and Governance Committee. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

We are also required to conclude on whether the Director, Corporate Services (s73 Officer)' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. We performed our work in accordance with Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statement and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom, and Supplementary Guidance Note 01, issued by the National Audit Office in April 2021.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Appendix B: Draft audit report (continued)

Report on the Authority’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception

We are required to report to you if, in our opinion, we are not satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2021.

We have not completed our work on the Authority’s arrangements. On the basis of our work to date, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2021, we have not identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

We will report the outcome of our work on the Authority’s arrangements in our commentary on those arrangements within the Auditor’s Annual Report. Our audit completion certificate will set out any matters which we are required to report by exception.

Responsibilities of the Authority

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We are required under section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority’s arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

We have undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in April 2021.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.



Appendix B: Draft audit report (continued)

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the members of West Yorkshire Combined Authority, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members of the Authority those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members of the Authority, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed:

- the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack; and
- the work necessary to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Mark Dalton, Key Audit Partner
For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

5th Floor
3 Wellington Place
Leeds
LS1 4AP

Date



Appendix C: Independence

As part of our ongoing risk assessment we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We can confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing the Audit Strategy Memorandum and therefore we remain independent.



Appendix D: Other communications

Other communication	Response
Compliance with Laws and Regulations	<p>We have not identified any significant matters involving actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Or detail significant matters identified.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management that all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements have been disclosed.</p>
External confirmations	<p>We did not experience any issues with respect to obtaining external confirmations.</p>
Related parties	<p>We did not identify any significant matters relating to the audit of related parties.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management confirming that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. they have disclosed to us the identity of related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which they are aware; andb. they have appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
Going Concern	<p>We have not identified any evidence to cause us to disagree with the Chief Financial Officer that West Yorkshire Combined Authority will be a going concern, and therefore we consider that the use of the going concern assumption is appropriate in the preparation of the financial statements.</p>

Appendix D: Other communications

Other communication	Response
Subsequent events	<p>We are required to obtain evidence about whether events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements are appropriately reflected in those financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.</p> <p>We will obtain written representations from management that all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.</p>
Matters related to fraud	<p>We have designed our audit approach to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud. In addition to the work performed by us, we will obtain written representations from management, and Those Charged With Governance, confirming that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. they acknowledge their responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud;b. they have disclosed to the auditor the results of management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;c. they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Management;ii. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; oriii. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; andd. they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Mark Dalton, Director – Public Services

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Mazars is an internationally integrated partnership, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory, tax and legal services*. Operating in over 90 countries and territories around the world, we draw on the expertise of 40,400 professionals – 24,400 in Mazars' integrated partnership and 16,000 via the Mazars North America Alliance – to assist clients of all sizes at every stage in their development.

*where permitted under applicable country laws.