



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
West Mercia Energy Joint Committee	7
28 th September 2021	<u>Public</u>

EXTERNAL AUDIT – AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT 2020/21

Responsible Officer Nigel Evans

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1. Summary

- 1.1 WR Partners, the Joint Committee's external auditors, have substantially completed their audit work regarding the financial statements of the Joint Committee for the year ended 31st March 2021 and this report enables them to present their audit findings to the Joint Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Joint Committee are asked to consider and endorse, with appropriate comment, the contents of the audit findings report presented by WR Partners.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
- 3.2 There are no direct environmental, equalities or climate change consequences arising from this report.
- 3.3 WR Partners' audit work was conducted in accordance with the International Standard on Auditing (UK).

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. Background

- 5.1 At the Joint Committee of 28 September 2015, it was highlighted that from 1st April 2015 implementation of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 meant that joint committees are no longer required to have their accounts separately prepared and audited. At this Joint Committee it was agreed to continue with an annual external audit in order to provide the Joint Committee with the necessary continued assurance regarding stewardship of funds.
- 5.2 A procurement exercise was conducted in late 2020 with the winning tenderer WR Partners, an audit firm based in Shrewsbury. Our previous auditors, Grant Thornton, also submitted a bid but were unsuccessful.
- 5.2 WR Partners presented their audit plan for 2020/21 to the March Joint Committee which was considered and approved.
- 5.3 WR Partners have substantially completed their audit work of the WME financial statements and subject to the outstanding areas which they need to cover (as outlined on page two of their report), they anticipate issuing an unqualified audit opinion following this Joint Committee meeting.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Joint Committee 2 nd March 2021 – External Audit Plan 2020/21
Joint Committee 28 th September 2015 – Local Audit and Accountability Act
Member Councillor R Evans of Worcestershire County Council (chair of the Joint Committee)
Appendices WR Partners, Audit Close Memorandum for Year Ended 31 March 2021