

AC13. 2019/20 External Audit Report

The committee considered a report by the Chief Finance Officer which presented the findings arising from the external audit of the 2019/20 financial statements.

The annual external audit report provided an unqualified opinion on the 2019/20 financial statements, including the remuneration report and annual governance statement.

The report provided conclusions in regard to:-

- The financial statements
- The IJB as a going concern

In regard to the wider scope of the audit and best value the report set out conclusions on the following audit dimensions:-

- Financial sustainability
- Governance and transparency
- Financial management
- Value for money

The report identified a number of areas for improvement and included 5 specific recommendations for management action. It was also recommended that the Board complete a self-assessment against Audit Scotland's guidance for IJBs during 2020/21.

In regard to the management actions Jillian Thomson confirmed that these would be actioned during 2021. Ms Scanlin added that the Auditors would focus on Best Value in 2021. In 2019/20 the level of integration had been a concern – the Auditors had noted an improvement in this in 2020/21.

Following a question Ms Scanlin explained that there had been a focus on the Board as a going concern in 2020/21. This would not normally be an issue, however it had become an area of focus during the Covid-19 pandemic because of the impact of the virus on funding and expenditure (and also because a new audit standard had been introduced which required focus on this area).

Decision

The committee noted the report.