Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 12**

Audit & Review Committee

14 April 2026

External Audit Report 2024/25

Purpose of the Report

1. To present the External Auditor's Annual Report, summarising the auditor's opinion on the 2024/25 accounts and value for money opinion.

Recommendation

2. Members are asked to note the report, and its findings:
    a. An unqualified opinion on the Authority's accounts for 2024/25;
    b. A full audit of 2022/23, giving assurances over the previous years' opening balances; and,
    c. No significant weaknesses were identified in relation to any aspects of the Authority's value for money arrangements.

Strategic Framework

3. The Draft Annual Audit Report complies with the Authority's Financial Regulations, which require that the annual accounts are subject to external audit.

Background

4. A full audit was completed for the financial year 2024/25, which met the backstop deadline to publish the Statement of Final Accounts (SoFA) by 28th February 2026. Because the financial year 2022/23 had not been subject to a full audit due to the well-publicised issues with Public Sector Audits – a full audit was also performed on 2022/23 to build back assurances on the opening balances.

Audit Opinion for 2024/25

5. As a result, the opinion for 2024/25 was unqualified, which gives assurances over all previous years' accounts.

6. The Auditor's Annual Report can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Financial Implications

7. The audit scale fee for 2024/25 is £48,845. Forvis Mazars has also applied to PSAA for an additional fee of £2,000 to cover work that was not in the original tender contract for IFRS16 Leases work, and £28,955 for the full audit of 2022/23. The total cost of audit in 2024/25 was £79,800. It should be noted that the fees in 2022/23 from the previous auditor were £5,389 which covered only the value for money opinion, making a combined total fee for 2022/23 of £34,344.

Legal Implications

8. None

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

9. None

Risk Management

10. Annual external audits form a major part of the Authority's governance framework, confirming the Authority represents Value for Money, and that the figures presented are a true and accurate representation of its financial affairs. Audit can also determine that there are no identified risks such as fraud, errors or omissions.

11. Full testing and verification have been performed on the financial transactions for 2024/25 and 2022/23 and no issues have been noted.

12. Valuations have been sought from external experts on the two largest balances, the Pension Scheme and the Fixed Asset valuations. The Pension Fund auditor identified an uncorrected misstatement in asset values during the Pension Fund audit and the Authority's share of this was £123k which is considered immaterial.

Conclusion

13. The process of issuing this audit opinion and value for money opinion brings the financial year 2024/25 to a close. The signed SoFA was published by the deadline of 28th February 2026, along with the Auditors Report and completion notice.

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