



Welcome to Mazars: your 2023/24 external audit

South Derbyshire District Council

mazars



South Derbyshire District Council
Civic Offices
Civic Way,
Swadlincote, DE11 0AH

3 December 2023

Dear Members of the Audit Sub-Committee

I am delighted to welcome South Derbyshire District Council as a Mazars client.

We do have a proven transition methodology, which we will deploy once we have clarity on the handover timetable because, as I know you're well aware, the financial reporting and audit challenges is making transition planning that little more difficult. We have held initial meetings with Officers and your current auditors and will remain engaged and will work collaboratively so that when able to, we can commence our work on your 2023/24 audit.

On the following page, I have provided you with my contact details alongside those of some of my colleagues.

Our team are passionate about the role we play in providing confidence in public spending and decision making through our audit and assurance services, playing our part in strengthening the UK's public services, allowing it to be effective in its responsibility for public money and aiding its ability to deliver the services that benefit our communities the most.

On behalf of everyone here, I look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or want to discuss any matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Surridge

Partner

Key Contacts



Name: Mark Surridge

Job title: Partner

E: mark.Surridge@mazars.co.uk

Role: UK sector lead for local government and lead Partner for the Midlands public sector business

Drawing on 20 years of experience in audit, assurance and consulting services for public and social sector organisations, Mark is the engagement lead for similar local authority audits, including district and county councils in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire



Name: Karen Murray

Job title: Partner

E: karen.murray@mazars.co.uk

Role: National lead for public sector external audit

Karen joined the Mazars' team in Manchester in early 2018. She is our national lead for public sector external audit and is the Engagement Lead for some of our most prestigious clients. She represents the firm in engagement with the DLUHC, the Financial Reporting Council, the NAO and Public Sector Auditor Appointments Ltd.



Name: Leah Parsons

Job title: Senior Manager

E: leah.parsons@mazars.co.uk

Role: Leah will be the key contact for the finance team and lead the audit, with the support of a specialist team of public sector auditors.

Leah is an experienced audit manager, working with a range of large and complex public sector bodies including local authorities and NHS trusts.



Name: Peter Cudlip

Job title: Partner

E: peter.cudlip@mazars.co.uk

Role: Global Head of Public and Social Sector

Peter is the Global Head of Risk Consulting and Head of the Public and Social Sector team at Mazars in the United Kingdom. He has over 25 years of experience providing internal audit and assurance services to a broad range of privately held, public and social sector entities.



More about Mazars



More about Mazars: A word from our Head of Public Sector Audit



“Public services is a key strategic market for Mazars and effective local audit is a fundamental part of the local accountability framework. We recognise the responsibilities and value we provide to our clients, local taxpayers and the general public.

Our team are passionate about the public sector and will invest time in building the critical senior officer and member relationships needed for an effective long-term working relationship.”

Karen Murray

Partner



Mazars in numbers

Our specialist public and social sector team provides distinctive audit and advisory services across six sectors:

- Local government
- Central government
- Health (NHS)
- Education
- Social housing
- Charities

The team is one of the largest and most successful in the market, working with over 300 public services clients nationally. We help these organisations to navigate their specific challenges and find better ways of working – whether it be through assurance, governance and risk, cyber security, sustainability, forensics, investigations, consulting or outsourcing.

108

Appointments to English Local Authorities

2023/24 PSAA Contract

8

Centres of excellence across England and Scotland

140+

Public Sector External Audit Specialists

12

Key Audit Partners



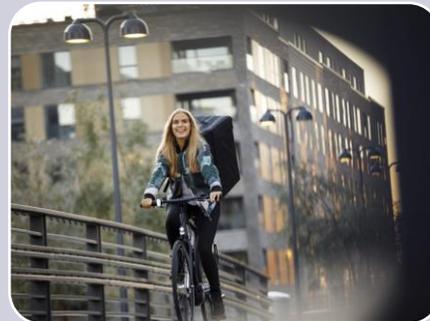
Public and Social Sector Insights

Click [here](https://www.mazars.co.uk/Home/Industries/Public-Social-Sector/Public-and-Social-Sector-insights) to find and subscribe to our public and social sector articles. Or copy and paste this link: <https://www.mazars.co.uk/Home/Industries/Public-Social-Sector/Public-and-Social-Sector-insights>



Fiscal Pressure and inflation challenges

Over 300 individuals from across the UK public and social sector told us that the UK is at a critical juncture. Amid on going social and economic turmoil, decisive action is needed now to support those most in need.



Supporting vulnerable communities

Against a backdrop of political uncertainty, unprecedented strike action and the prevailing cost of living crisis – itself a consequence of the conflict in Ukraine among other factors – many of the UK's most vulnerable communities are at risk of becoming more marginalised and face more hardship.



A global public and social sector study (2023)

The public and social sector is in a time of transformation. Expectations of organisations in the sector are higher than ever while financial constraints and regulatory burdens are increasing.

To understand some of the challenges leaders in this sector face and the steps they are taking to tackle them, we surveyed more than 100 public sector executives in five countries.



Why culture is critical to local government

The extent to which an organisation's culture supports the execution of its strategy, the management of risk and the treatment of its service users is increasingly under the spotlight, and weaknesses in culture are now frequently blamed for failings in these areas.



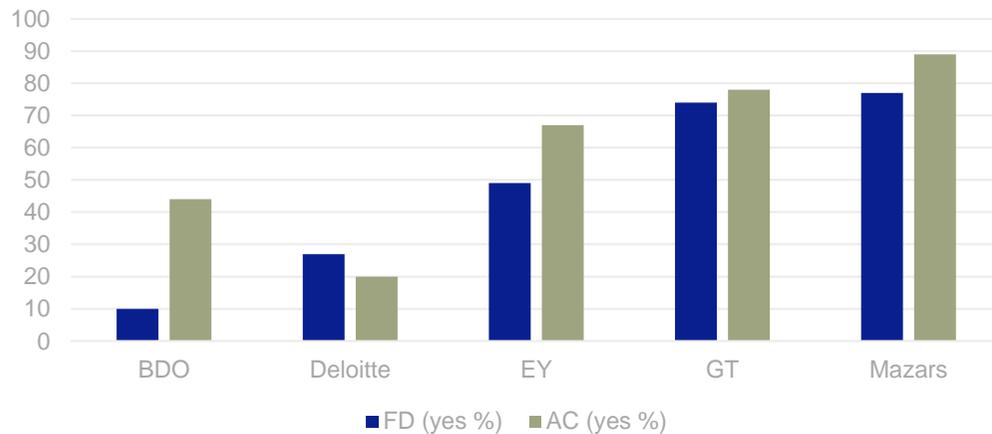
PSAA quality of audit services feedback survey

In August 2023 Public Sector Auditor Appointments Ltd (PSAA) published its fourth annual report on feedback from Finance Directors and Audit Committee Chairs of local authorities on their satisfaction with the audit services provided by local auditors.

You can view the full PSAA report at [PSAA-Quality-of-Audit-Services-2021-22-feedback-survey.pdf](https://www.psaa.gov.uk/psaa-quality-of-audit-services-2021-22-feedback-survey.pdf)

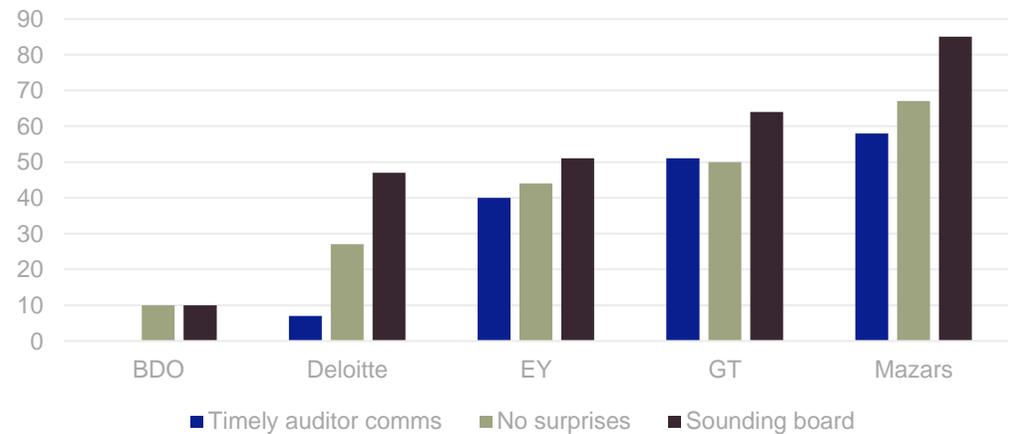
Focus area 1 - To what extent did the audit service meet your expectations?

Did the audit service meet your expectations?



Focus area 2 - To what extent did your auditor provide effective and timely communications? Were the communications timely, with no surprises and was the auditor approachable as a sounding board?

How effective were communications?



Contact

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Mazars LLP is the UK firm of Mazars, an international advisory and accountancy organisation, and is a limited liability partnership registered in England with registered number OC308299. A list of partners' names is available for inspection at the firm's registered office, 30 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7AU. Registered to carry on audit work in the UK by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Details about our audit registration can be viewed at www.auditregister.org.uk under reference number C001139861.

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