

## **AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

**28 JULY 2021**

### **UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 For members of the committee to review the Council's draft Statutory Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

#### **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (Amended by 2020/404 & 2021/263) require that the authority must prepare and publish its approved draft and audited Statement of Accounts by 1 August and 30 September respectively. The Regulations only require the Section 151 Officer to sign and certify that the unaudited Statement of Accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council. However, in the interests of transparency and good governance, these are still being presented to this committee in order to give the members of the committee a chance to review the contents rather than first inspection being when the audited Statement of Accounts need approving in September.
- 2.2 The Council aims to publish the unaudited Statement of Accounts on their website prior to the deadline of 1 August 2021.
- 2.3 The contents of the accounts are largely determined by statutory requirements and mandatory professional standards as set out within the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting' and 'Standard of Professional Practice on Financial Reporting' published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The CIPFA Code of Practice is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

#### **3.0 Audit of the Accounts**

- 3.1 The Council's external auditors, Mazars, commenced the audit of the accounts in June 2021 however the audit timetable is not due to be completed until the end of August or early September. On completion there is a requirement that the external auditor provides details of any amendments made within the financial statement compared with the draft accounts produced. This report is the Audit Completion report and will be brought to this committee in September along with the final audited Statement of Accounts for approval.

#### **Annual Governance Statement**

- 4.0 The Audit and Accounts Regulations 2015 require the Council to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control. This review is carried out through the production of an Annual Governance Statement, prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control. Members are required to approve this in line with the approval of the Statement of Accounts. The Annual Governance Statement has been prepared for 2020/2021 and the draft version is included in the unaudited Statement of Accounts.

**5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:**

- (a) Members note the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2021; and**
- (b) Members note the draft Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 and agree to them being submitted to the external auditor (Mazars) for audit and certification;**

**Background Papers**

Nil.

For further information contact Nick Wilson on extension 5317 or Andrew Snape, Assistant Business Manager Financial Services on extension 5523.