

AUDIT BOARD
21 OCTOBER 2020

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS) 2019/2020

1. Summary

To present the Council's Statement of Accounts for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and to recommend accordingly.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Statement of Accounts 2019/20 be considered and approved for publication.

3. Background and Discussion

- 3.1. The production and publication of the annual Statement of Accounts 2019/20 are governed by the Local Government Finance Act 1982, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These normally require that the Accounts be prepared by 31 May, and audited and approved for publication by 31 July.
- 3.2. Due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak the deadlines for submission and audit of the statement of accounts were changed so that the new statutory date for publication for the final, audited 2019/20 Financial Statement is 30 November 2020, a change from the 31 July 2020. The formal 10 working day public inspection period must start by 1 September 2020.
- 3.3. The draft 2019/20 Statement of Accounts were provided to the auditors at the beginning of the audit period on the 6 July 2020 despite the team working from home during the period and being heavily involved in other Covid-19 related work streams. Remote audit work continued throughout July, August and September with the formal accounts inspection being carried out during the audit period.
- 3.4. The previous agenda item was a report from the External Auditor including the Audit Findings report. At the time of writing the report the External Auditor is proposing to give an unqualified opinion both on the accounts and on the Value for Money conclusion. The Auditor cannot sign off the accounts until they have been formally endorsed by Members. Having considered the report of the External Auditor, the Board is asked to endorse the Statement of Accounts and approve its publication.
- 3.5 A copy of the Statutory Accounts is attached as Appendix A to this report. Due to the length and complexity of the document, the following are highlighted for members' consideration:

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Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (page 24)
Movement in Reserves Statement (page 25)
Balance Sheet (Page 27)
Note 1a Expenditure and Funding Analysis (page 29)
Housing Revenue Account (page 105)
Collection Fund (page 113)

The Head of Finance will provide a verbal update on the above, highlighting the important areas at the meeting.

- 3.6 Outturn reports for the revenue and capital budgets will be presented to Cabinet in June. There are no changes to these reports following the audit.
- 3.7 The responsibility for producing and signing the Statement of Accounts rested with the Strategic Director (Internal Services) as Section 151 Officer. It will be proposed to the General Assembly of the Council [Agenda item 11 -12 October 2020] that this responsibility transfers to the Head of Finance. The draft statement incorporates this proposal, which will be confirmed or otherwise by the time of the meeting.
- 3.8 The Chairman, on behalf of the Board, is certifying that the report on the Statement of Accounts has been considered and that the Board has approved them for publication.

4 Relationship to the Corporate Plan

The completion and approval of the annual Statement of Accounts by 31May and its approval by 31July are key requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

5 Financial, legal, staffing and other administrative implications and risk assessments

Financial Implications	The Statement of Accounts details the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2020
Legal Implications	These are detailed in paragraph 3.1.
Staffing Implications	None
Administrative Implications	None
Risk Assessment	No uncertainties and/or constraints

6 Appendices

Appendix A – Statement of Accounts 2019-2020

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

<u>Documents consulted</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>File Ref</u>	<u>Report Author</u>	<u>Section and Directorate</u>	<u>Exempt Information Category</u>
Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2019/20			Tim Sams 01322 343148	Financial Services/ Internal Services	N/A