



Date: 10th September 2020

Title: 2019/20 Statement of Accounts

Financial Summary: This report presents the audited Statement of Accounts for the Council and the Pension Fund.

Report of: Gerald Almeroth, Executive Director – Finance & Resources

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Since the Audit and Performance Committee reviewed the draft statement of accounts at its meeting on 18th June 2020 the Council's external auditors – Grant Thornton have completed their audit of the council and pension fund accounts.
- 1.2 The Council had a public inspection period of the accounts from 19th May 2020 to 1st July 2020. There were no objections raised during this period of time.
- 1.3 The key changes to both set of accounts since the draft version was presented to the committee in June are outlined in Appendix C of the Audit Findings Report (AFR) and Appendix A of the AFR for the Pensions Fund.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Audit and Performance Committee approve the 2019/20 statement of accounts that are to be signed off by the auditors.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus)(Amendment) Regulations 2020 state that the Council's accounts must be approved by 30th November 2020, with draft accounts due by 31st August 2020.
- 3.2 The Council have been well ahead of this deadline with draft accounts published on the Council's website on 18th May 2020 and the final audited accounts being

presented to the committee on 10th September 2020. Approximately two months before the revised statutory deadline which was extended as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 3.3 A draft version of the accounts and the outturn position for 2019/20 were presented to the committee on 18th June 2020. Since then the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton have carried out a detailed audit of the accounts. The audit process is intended to ensure that there are no material misstatements in the accounts and the audit is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion about the financial statements.
- 3.4 During the audit process a number adjustment have been made to the statement of accounts and these are outlined in Appendix C of the AFR. In general, these adjustments have had a limited impact on the bottom line and have no impact on the Council's budgetary arrangements.
- 3.5 The accounts provide a snapshot of the Council's financial position as at 31st March 2020. The accounts show that the Council is in a strong financial position as at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, but there are significant challenges ahead as the Council deals with the financial consequences of the pandemic. However, the Council have strong financial management and are resilient enough to cushion the impact of the pandemic in the short term. This is supported by the auditor's value for money assessment in the AFR.

4. OBJECTIONS

- 4.1 The auditors have not received any objections in relation to the 2019/20 statement of accounts.

5. EXTERNAL AUDIT

- 5.1 Grant Thornton have provided the audit findings report and the Council's management have provided responses and will address any issues highlighted in the report.