

REPORT TO:	<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>		
DATE:	16 January 2024		
TITLE:	<b>Audited Statement of Accounts 2019/2020</b>		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Mandatory		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Cllr C Morley, Portfolio Holder for Finance		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Carl Holland, Financial Services Manager		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:</b>
To provide the Statement of Accounts 2019/2020 for consideration and approval for publication.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
That members of the Audit Committee:- 1. Approve the attached 2019/2020 Statement of Accounts. 2. Delegate authority to the Council's Section 151 officer and the Council's Chair of Audit Committee to sign-off the final and complete Statement of Accounts. 3. Note the "Letter of Representation".
<b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
To comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and provide an audited statement of accounts for our residents.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 ("the 2015 Regulations") set out detailed requirements for local authorities in relation to its annual audit and accounting processes.
- 1.2 The current version of the final statement of accounts 2019/20 are attached for the Committee's review and consideration.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The statement of accounts for the year 2019/20 are based on all amendments agreed and reported in the "2019/2020 Audit Results report" also presented by Ernst and Young on today's Committee Agenda. Once approved by Audit Committee the Council's external auditors can complete their final processes before they sign the accounts.
- 2.2 Following completion of the auditors processes there may be some changes to the version reported today. A decision is therefore sought to permit the Council's Section 151 Officer in agreement with the Council Chair of Audit Committee to sign off the accounts including any subsequent changes identified during the finalisation of the audit to enable conclusion of the audit and publication of the accounts. This is reflected in this report's recommendation.

**2.3** In addition to the 2019/2020 Statement of Accounts, The papers include a “Letter of Representation” that the Section 151 officer must sign to provide assurance to the external auditors that all relevant and related matters at the Council and in respect of its related Group Accounts have been disclosed. This is provided for information to the Audit Committee.

**3. Financial Implications**

**3.1** The costs to finalise and publish the accounts are incorporated within existing staff capacity.

**4. Any other Implications/Risks**

**4.1** Closure of the 2019/2020 audit enable the Councils Section 151 Officer to prepare plans for audit and closure of the subsequent sets of accounts due since 2019/20.

**5. Equal Opportunity Considerations**

**5.1** None, this is not a new policy, function or service being considered.

**6. Background Papers**

[The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015](#)