

Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee  
9 December 2020

**Title: Statement of Accounts and update from External Audit**

**Lead Officer: Mike Snow**

**Portfolio Holder: Richard Hales**

**Public report**

**Wards of the District directly affected: N/A**

Contrary to the policy framework: No

Contrary to the budgetary framework: No

Key Decision: No

Included within the Forward Plan: N/A

Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken: N/A

Consultation & Community Engagement: N/A

Final Decision: Yes

Accessibility checked: Yes

**Officer/Councillor Approval**

<b>Officer Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	30/11/2020	Chris Elliott
Head of Service	30/11/2020	Mike Snow
CMT	30/11/2020	
Section 151 Officer	30/11/2020	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	30/11/2020	Andrew Jones
Finance	30/11/2020	Andre Rollins
Portfolio Holder(s)	30/11/2020	Richard Hales

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The 2019/20 Audited Statement of Accounts were signed off by the external auditors on 21 November 2020.
- 1.2 The external auditors have issued the attached paper for the information of members of Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee.

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Committee:-
  - a) Notes the completion of the audit of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts.
  - b) Notes the Audit Progress Report and Sector Update from Grant Thornton.

### 3. Reasons for the Recommendation

- 3.1 Progress on the audit of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts was reported to the Committee on 30 September 2020, when work was nearing completion. The audit had subsequently been completed on 21 November, with the accounts receiving an unqualified opinion. As previously reported, the deadline for the accounts to be signed off this year is 30 November, this having been slipped by 4 months in view of the pandemic.
- 3.2 Grant Thornton, the external auditors, have issued the attached Audit Progress Report and Sector Update. This deals with various matters that are likely to be of interest to the Committee. This includes an update to the Audit Findings Report that was issued to the September Committee meeting.

### 4. Policy Framework

#### 4.1. **Fit for the Future (FFF)**

- 4.1.1. The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. To that end amongst other things the FFF Strategy contains several Key projects.
- 4.1.2. The FFF Strategy has 3 strands, People, Services and Money, and each has an external and internal element to it, the details of which can be found [on the Council's website](#). The detail below illustrates the impact of this proposal if any in relation to the Council's FFF Strategy.

#### 4.2. **FFF Strands**

##### 4.2.1 **External impacts of proposal(s)**

**People - Health, Homes, Communities**

**Services - Green, Clean, Safe**

**Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment**

The audited accounts support all strands of FFF by way of confirming how the Council is using its resources.

### 4.2.2. **Internal impacts of the proposal(s)**

**People - Effective Staff**

**Services - Maintain or Improve Services**

**Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term**

The audited accounts support all strands of FFF by way of confirming how the Council is using its resources.

### 4.3 **Supporting Strategies**

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies. The 2019/20 Accounts are consistent with the relevant supporting strategies.

### 4.4 **Changes to Existing Policies**

No proposed changes to existing policies are proposed.

### 4.5 **Impact Assessments**

The Council's Final Accounts cover the community throughout the District. It is a statement of fact and officers will have considered any impact when amending their budgets.

## 5. **Budgetary Framework**

5.1 The original cost of the 2019/20 audit was agreed at £41,290, as part of the appointment made following tenders managed by Public Sector Audit Appointment (PSAA). The update from the external auditors, suggests they will be seeking a fee variation in respect of the additional time it has taken to audit the accounts.

5.2 Any additional fee, whether it is one-off, or recurring, will present an additional cost to the Council's Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

## 6. **Risks**

6.1 The closure of the Accounts continues to be a key project across the Council. This has had detailed action plans, and a Risk Register that has also been reported.

6.2 The Risk Register will be reviewed and updated ahead of the 2020/21 closure.

## 7. **Alternative Option(s) considered**

7.1 No alternative options are presented for consideration.