

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Statement of Accounts 2013/14 17 September 2014

Report of Chief Officer (Resources)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks Member approval for the 2013/14 audited accounts, to allow the completion of financial reporting for last year.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report for 2013/14 issued by the Council's External Auditors be noted, together with the letter of representation to be signed by the s151 Officer.
2. That the audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 be approved and that the Accounts be signed and dated by the Chairman.

REPORT

- 1.1 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, the draft Accounts for 2013/14 were produced by 30 June and certified by the s151 Officer on that date. They were then made available for public inspection and they have also been externally audited.
- 1.2 The outcome of the external audit is set out in the Auditor's formal report at **Appendix A**. The External Audit Manager will be in attendance at the Committee meeting to present the report and answer any questions.
- 1.3 In summary, the results of the audit are as follows:
 - A number of minor presentational changes have been agreed during the audit, but no material adjustments were required.
 - Subject to supporting documentation being completed and reviewed, an unqualified audit opinion is anticipated.
 - An unqualified Value for Money (VFM) conclusion is also expected.

- 1.4 In terms of the Committee's responsibilities, by 30 September the Council must:
- consider the Accounts;
 - following that consideration, approve the Accounts; and
 - following approval, ensure that the Accounts are signed and dated by the Chairman.
- 1.5 Accordingly the adjusted, audited Accounts are attached at **Appendix B** for the Committee's consideration and approval. As background, the financial outturn has previously been reported to both Cabinet and Budget and Performance Panel.
- 1.6 In support of completing the audit, the Auditor requires a 'letter of representation', a draft form of which is included at **Appendix C**. The letter will be signed by the s151 Officer but the Committee is also requested to note it. This is on the basis that those charged with governance should be aware of the representations on which the auditor relies, in expressing his opinion on the Accounts. If there are any substantive changes to the wording of the final letter, the Committee will be advised at the meeting.
- 1.7 Once the Accounts have been approved, the letter of representation forwarded and any other outstanding matters resolved, it is expected that the Auditor will issue his opinion on the accounts and on VFM arrangements, with conclusion of the audit following in due course.
- 1.8 The audited Accounts will be published by 30 September. This simply involves a copy being made available at the Town Halls and through the Council's website.

2 **Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)**

The Accounts approval process represents an opportunity for the City Council to consider the outcome of external audit, to ensure that its financial reporting is appropriate and take any action as needed. Given the results of the audit, no alternative options are put forward, but the Committee could make supplementary recommendations regarding any matters arising.

3 **Conclusion**

- 3.1 The approval of the Accounts by the Committee would ensure that the statutory deadline is met.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

No implications directly arising.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no changes to the financial outturn from that previously reported to Members.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

This report forms part of the Chief Officer (Resources)' responsibilities, under her role as s151 Officer.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.

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