

**REPORT FROM: Director of Resources**

**TO: Accounts and Audit Committee**

**DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

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## **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to present for approval the Statement of Accounts for 2022/23. At the time of writing this report the audit undertaken by Grant Thornton is substantially complete. The accounts submitted with this report include all but one amendment still to be agreed with the External Audit team as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Subject to the agreement of final amendment, the Committee is recommended to approve the Statement of Accounts 2022/23.

### **REASON**

To fulfill statutory sign-off of Audited Accounts.

### **ISSUE**

1. The draft (pre-audit) Statement of Accounts was submitted to this committee on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
2. Details of the formal audit findings were presented at the same meeting, in a separate report from Grant Thornton (External Audit - 2022/23 Audit Findings Report).
3. At the time of writing this report, all but one of the amendments requested within the Audit Findings Report have been included along with the additional derecognition of assets held at cost, in the value of £511k, which were found to be superseded by other asset listings. A copy of the amendments requested can be found in [Appendix B](#)
4. The amendment of £61k for the reversed depreciation of revalued assets was not actioned as the work would have led to the changing of a large number of asset values across several of the categories of asset. This unadjusted misstatement is presented in the letter of representation elsewhere within this agenda.
5. There has been one other asset under construction item, held at cost, the value of which was selected for review. Work has been undertaken in recent days by the Council's

valuers to ascertain the retained value. At the time of writing the amendment required within the accounts has not yet been agreed with External Audit. Once agreed the adjustment would see any impairment of the asset offset against the Capital Adjustment Account.

6. The External Auditors recommendations included the reporting of the change to management account reported on page 14 of the SoA. The draft at March 2024 compared the actual expenditure of £17.23m with the Council's original 2022/23 budget of £15.5m. Agreed use of reserves and budget slippage meant that the approved budget of £16.5m should have been reported as the comparator for final outturn. The total expenditure reported in the final draft is largely unchanged at £17.29m.
7. The period for public inspection of the accounts commenced from the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 and ended on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024. No questions or enquiries were received from members of the public in this period.
8. Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (Amendment 2022) the Council must, following the conclusion of the period for the exercise of public rights, in the following order:-
  - (a) *Consider, either by way of a committee or by the members meeting as a whole, the statement of accounts;*
  - (b) *Approve the statement of accounts by a resolution of that committee meeting;*
  - (c) *Ensure that the statement of accounts is signed and dated by the person presiding at the committee or meeting at which approval is given.*
9. The Statement of Accounts is attached at [Appendix A](#) for approval. The Director of resources, as the Council's responsible finance officer, has re-certified the accounts confirming that the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of:
  - (a) *The financial position of the authority at the end of the financial year to which it relates; and*
  - (b) *The authority's income and expenditure for that financial year.*
10. Once confirmation has been received from Grant Thornton that the audit has been completed, a 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit' will be published. This will explain that the audit of the Council's accounts has been completed and state where the accounts and auditor's report can be inspected.
11. In considering the SOAs members of committee are referred to the external auditor's Audit Findings report (AFR). The reports provide the auditor's opinion on the accuracy of the accounts and also the supporting documents.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** There are no policy implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

**Financial:** The financial implications are as given in the report and Statement of Accounts. This report sets out the closing financial position for the 2022/23 year.

**Legal:** The Accounts and Audit Regulation's 2015 (Amendment 2022) currently require the Council to approve and publish its audited Statement of Accounts by 30<sup>th</sup> September each

year. Although this target was not met, Councillors' approval of the accounts at this meeting will allow us to satisfy required publication.

**Risk Management:** There are no risk management implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

**Health and Safety:** There are no health and safety implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

**Sustainability:** There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

**Community Safety:** There are no community safety issues arising directly from the contents of this report.

**Equality and Diversity:** There are no equality and diversity issues arising from the contents of this report.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A** –Statement of Accounts 2022/23

**Appendix B** –Extract of External Audit Findings Report (Mar24)

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Final Accounts working papers held by Financial Services.