

Report To:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Date:	28th NOVEMBER 2022
Heading:	AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22
Portfolio Holder:	EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR FINANCE, REVENUES AND BENEFITS – CLLR DAVID MARTIN
Ward/s:	N/A
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

This report presents the Audit Committee with the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 and reports on the outcome of the external audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts 2021/22.

Subject to approval of the Statement of Accounts by the Audit Committee, a copy of the audited Final Statement of Accounts will be placed on the Council's website.

Recommendation(s)

To approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 subject to the outstanding items identified in the External Auditors Completion Report 2021/22 .

To delegate authority for the final approval of the audited Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 to the Corporate Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer) subject to a satisfactory outcome of outstanding items and to report back to Audit Committee details of any changes, if required.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To comply with Financial Regulations which form part of the Council's Constitution. These state the Audit Committee is responsible for approving the Annual Statement of Accounts.

Alternative Options Considered

None as it is a statutory requirement for Council's to publish the audited Annual Statement of Accounts and a requirement of the Council's Financial Regulations for the Audit Committee to approve the annual Statement of Accounts.

Detailed Information

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the deadline for completion and publication of the draft Statement of Accounts was 31 May and the deadline for the final audited Statement of Accounts was the 31 July. These statutory deadlines were amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 and 2022. The deadlines for the publication of the draft accounts were extended to the 31 July and the deadline for the publication of final audited accounts was extended to 30 November for the financial year beginning 2021.

The link to the draft statement of accounts is:

<https://www.ashfield.gov.uk/your-council/financial-information/statement-of-accounts-audit-reports/>

The audit has resulted in the following amendment to a disclosure note between the draft and final audited Statement of Accounts:

- The lease note has been updated to reflect the correct split between the minimum future lease payment required.

An adjustment was identified by the Council Finance officers in relation to S106 contributions that are time limited, they have been recognised as capital contributions unapplied, and they should be recognised as capital contributions RIA, as the time restriction is a condition.

The adjustment will change where the contributions appear on the balance sheet but will not change the overall position. It should also be noted it does not impact on our ability to access and spend the money. The changes required between the draft and final audited Statement of Accounts are currently being discussed and agreed by the Council Finance officers and the Auditors.

The Auditors work on the accounts is substantially complete, the outstanding matters are detailed in the Mazars Audit Completion Report (ISA 260). Due to the need to finalise these remaining few outstanding items, it is not expected the deadline for the publishing of the audited final accounts of the 30th November 2022 will be achieved. It is expected these last few items will be fully and promptly resolved, limiting the delay in publication. Delay in publication is allowed for by Regulation. The regulations require, in these circumstances that the Council publishes a notice on the website, which has been completed. The notice explains the final audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 will be published as soon as the audit is concluded, and the Independent Auditor's Report issued.

If any issues arise from the completion of the Auditors remaining work, they will be reported to the next Audit Committee.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Production of timely and accurately Statement of Accounts is a statutory requirement. Achievement of this reflects sound financial management supporting delivery of the Corporate Plan.

Legal:

This report enables the Council to present for approval the audited Statement of Accounts in accordance with statute.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	As per the Statement of Accounts
General Fund – Capital Programme	As per the Statement of Accounts
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	As per the Statement of Accounts
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	As per the Statement of Accounts

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
The final accounts may change as a consequence of the completion of the outstanding work.	Should any changes be necessary these will be reported to the next Audit Committee with details of any implications.

Human Resources:

None

Environmental/Sustainability:

None

Equalities:

None

Background Papers

Statement of Accounts 2021/22

Mazars Audit Completion Report (ISA 260)

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