

**AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
20 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Update on Statement of Accounts 2022/23 and prior years

Report by Director of Finance

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to

Note the timing for the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts along with the updates on prior years.

Executive Summary

2. This report sets out the approach taken to the preparation of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts. It also provides a brief update to the prior years' Accounts that remain unaudited.

Statement of Accounts

2020/21

3. The audit of the 2020/21 is close to completion. The external auditor has made some further enquiries following their internal review. Clarification of these elements has been received and a reply was made in July. The expectation is that the accounts for 2020/21 should be signed off imminently.

2021/22

4. The external auditors re-commenced their work on the 2021/22 Accounts in July 2023. The volume of sampling has continued to increase from previous years and as a consequence, it is taking longer to respond. We continue to work closely with the external auditor on tracking outstanding queries. Progress will be reviewed at the end of September with an ambition to sign off the accounts by November 2023.

2022/23

5. The Council has taken the decision to delay the publication of draft accounts to allow for the progression of the audits for 2020/21 and 2021/22 as reported to the Committee at its meeting on 19 July 2023.

Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications arising from matters set out above.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

7. There are no legal implications arising directly from the measures set out. However, the Council will need to ensure that arrangements are put in place to comply with any amendments to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and statutory guidance, including the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in England and Wales.

Comments checked by:

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