

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE	20 APRIL 2023	5

### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21

#### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

#### SUMMARY

1. The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts which, in terms of the CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy) / LASAAC (Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in United Kingdom (the Code), is required to present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at the accounting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2021.
2. The statutory Annual Accounts and supporting financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (The Code).
3. The Audit and Standards Committee has the authority to approve the Council's after-audit Annual Statement of Accounts for 2020/21, and is recommended to do so.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to approve the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Audit and Standards Committee meeting of 29th September 2021 considered a report in respect of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21. However, the external audit work was incomplete at that time and it was therefore not possible for the committee to approve the accounts at that meeting.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

## **REPORT**

1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended in 2021 as a consequence of the Covid pandemic) amended the timescales for publication and Audit of the Councils Statement of Accounts). For the years 2020/21 and 2021/22 the Council's responsible financial officer (Section 151 Officer) is required to prepare and certify that the Statement of Accounts "present a true and fair view of the financial position" of the Council for the financial year by 31<sup>st</sup> July. The Council is then formally required to approve and publish the Statement of Accounts no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September.
2. The Audit and Standards Committee meeting of 29th September 2021 considered a report relating to the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts. However, at that time the Council External Auditors had been unable to complete their audit of the 2020/21 accounts and it was noted that a further meeting of the committee would be scheduled in due course. The audit has now been completed.
3. The Council has delegated to the Audit and Standards Committee the function of reviewing and approving the Annual Statement of Accounts.
4. The Council prepares its statutory Annual Accounts and supporting financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 ('The Code').
5. The Council's external auditors (Deloitte LLP) audit the draft accounts prepared by the Council and give an opinion on them. Deloitte base their opinion on the accounts as to whether they "present a true and fair view of the financial position" of the Council in accordance with the requirements set out above.
6. For 2020/21 the Code introduced a number of accounting changes, however these have had minimal impact on the preparation of the Accounts.
7. Once the Audit Opinion has been given and accounts approved they must be signed and dated by the Member presiding the meeting (the Chair or Vice-Chair) at which approval is given and re-certified by the Section 151 Officer. The Statement of Accounts can then be published as a public document.

## **EXTERNAL AUDIT**

8. One of the duties of External Audit is to examine the form and regularity of the accounts, the main purpose being to ensure they are not materially mis-stated.
9. If the Auditors identify any material changes to the Accounts, these will be reported to Members in their independent audit findings report.

## **CONCLUSION**

10. The production and external audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 has now been completed.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The financial implications are contained within the body of this report.
Legal	The Council (delegated to Audit and Standards Committee) is required to approve the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 in line with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Paul O'Donoghue Chief Financial Officer	01253 658566	April 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		

Attached documents

**Appendix 1 – Annual Statement of Accounts 2020/21**