
REPORT TO:	Audit & Governance Committee
DATE:	22 March 2021
SERVICE AREA:	Finance
REPORTING OFFICER:	Head of Finance <i>(Graham Byrne, Financial Services Manager)</i>
SUBJECT:	Audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL DISTRICT
FORWARD PLAN REF:	N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the Council's statutory audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 for approval. These are attached at **Appendix 1**.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The audited version of the Statement of Accounts is approved.
- 2.2 The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee signs and dates the Statement of Accounts to confirm their approval by the Committee.

3.0 RECOMMENDED REASON FOR DECISIONS

- 3.1 Under the provisions of the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, a Committee or the full Council must approve the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts. In accordance with the Council's constitution, Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions, this requirement is delegated to the Audit and Governance Committee.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION

- 4.1 Not to approve the accounts. This would mean that the Council would not meet the requirement to sign off and publish its annual Statement of Accounts.

5.0 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The draft unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 was presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 14 September 2020. The accounts have since been subject to audit and some amendments have been made, as detailed in Mazars' Audit Completion Report, which is also considered on this agenda.
- 5.2 The main changes are the result of amending the valuations of the shared ownership properties held within the Housing Revenue Account; their capital valuation has been reduced by £3.1m as at 31 March 2020 to reflect the application of the social housing adjustment factor, as was already the case with all other council dwellings.
- 5.3 None of the amendments made to the accounts result in any change to the revenue outturn position for 19/20 or to the balances on usable reserves.
- 5.4 The updated Statement of Accounts is set out as **Appendix 1** to this report. In order to comply with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, the final version of the accounts should be approved and published.

6.0 REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The following were considered: Financial Implications; Human Resources Implications; Legal Implications; ICT Implications; Strategic Property/Asset Management Considerations; Risk Assessment; Equality and Diversity (the Public Sector Equality Duty and impact upon people with protected characteristics). If applicable, the outcomes of any consultations, assessments, considerations and implications considered necessary during preparation of this report are detailed below.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 This report presents the audited Statement of Accounts for 2019/20, to be signed off and published in line with the regulations.

Background Papers – None as defined in the Act

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Graham Byrne (Financial Services Manager) if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Finance, PO Box 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW; by telephone on 01423 500600 ext 58564 or by e-mail at graham.byrne@harrogate.gov.uk