

# NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

25 October 2021

### Report following the detailed review of the draft Statement of Final Accounts (incorporating the Annual Governance Statement) for 2020/21

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise members of the Audit Committee on:
- i. Issues identified during the detailed review of the draft Statements of Final Accounts (SoFA) and the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2020/21;
  - ii. Actions taken as a result of issues being identified;
  - iii. Offering an opinion on the draft SoFA and draft AGS for 2020/21 in advance of the Audit Committee being asked to approve them.

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 28 June the Audit Committee considered a report which provided a draft Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for 2020/21. The SOFA also included a draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2020/21.
- 2.2 In order to fulfil its responsibilities, the Audit Committee needs to be able to satisfy itself that the SOFA properly reflects the financial position of the Council and the governance and internal control processes described in the AGS are in fact both operational and effective.
- 2.3 It was agreed that a Members Working Group with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee, Cllr Karl Arthur and Mr David Portlock be convened to give detailed consideration of the draft SOFA/AGS and that a report would be presented to the full Audit Committee on 20 September 2021.
- 2.4 While the Member Working Group report was presented to the Audit Committee on 20 September, the Committee was not in a position to approve the SOFA and AGS at that meeting. As a result, the recommendation was for the report to be submitted to the meeting on 25 October 2021 to approve the SOFA for 2020/21.
- 2.5 This report provides a summary of the detailed review of the draft SOFA for 2020/21, which incorporate the AGS.

- 2.6 The Members Working Group has also discussed with Officers changes required by the External Auditors after the meeting on 20 September 2021.

### **3.0 Key Areas Identified**

- 3.1 To assist the Audit Committee's understanding, comments are provided separately on the AGS and the SOFA for 2020/21, whilst recognising that both ultimately feature in the same document. This section also identifies the action that has taken place and / or will take place.

#### Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

The Members Working Group were able to review the updated Annual Governance Statement following completion of Sections 7 & 8 after the publication of the draft AGS in June.

1. Issue – a number of suggestions and observations were provided in respect of the Annual Governance Statement.

Action taken – the suggestions and observations have been taken into account through amendments to the Annual Governance Statement where appropriate.

#### Statements of Final Accounts 2020/21

1. Issue – a number of detailed questions were submitted and explanations were provided.

Action taken – explanations provided and no further action required.

2. Issue – a number of sub-headings and supporting narrative within statements were reviewed

Action taken – these have now been updated to provide greater clarity within the accounts.

3. Issues - a number of typos / simple errors were identified.

Action taken – these have now been corrected and are incorporated within the SoFA presented to the Audit Committee on this agenda.

**4.0 Conclusions of the Member Working Group regarding the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21**

4.1 The Members Working Group is satisfied that all appropriate actions have been taken and satisfactory explanations have been provided where required.

4.2 The Members Working Group has discussed with Officers changes required by the External Audit after the meeting on 20 September 2021.

4.3 Subject to the above, the Members Working Group recommends to the Audit Committee that the Statements of Final Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 are approved.

Members Working Group  
13 October 2021