

30 September 2021**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE****STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21****Purpose of the Report**

1. To present the Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21 to Governance and Ethics Committee and to seek approval for Committee to delegate responsibility to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Governance and Ethics Committee, to approve the Statement of Accounts 2020/21 on completion of all external audit work.
2. To inform the Governance and Ethics Committee of the contents of the auditor's External Audit Report 2020/21.
3. To present the letters of representation to be issued in relation to the audit for approval by the Governance and Ethics Committee.

Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21

4. The deadline for publishing the draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21 was 31 July 2021. Nottinghamshire County Council's Statement of Accounts 2020/21 were published onto the Council website on 9 July 2021, well ahead of the deadline.
5. The Senior Accountant, Financial Strategy and Accounting will provide a brief presentation of the Draft Statement of Accounts to Member at Committee setting out the structure of the accounts and the most pertinent areas to view.

Audit Results

6. The statutory audit of the Statement of Accounts 2020/21 was undertaken by Grant Thornton. At the time this document was published, the external auditors were finalising completion of their work. It is expected that John Gregory (Director – Grant Thornton) will provide a verbal update on their findings at the Committee meeting.
7. On completion of the external audit work, it is proposed that the responsibility to approve the audited Statement of Accounts 2020/21 is delegated to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Governance and Ethics Committee. Also, at that stage, the Audited Statement of Accounts 2020/21 will be published on the Council's website.

8. The statement of accounts is one of the key documents prepared by the Council to demonstrate good governance and value for money. This provides information about the County Council's financial position, performance and cash flows and consequently, shows the results of the stewardship and accountability of elected members and management for the resources entrusted to them, which is of paramount importance in the use of public funds.
9. As required by The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, the Council's S151 Officer will re-certify the accounts following completion of the audit. It is proposed that responsibility to approve the Audited Statement of Accounts 2020/21 is delegated to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of Governance and Ethics Committee. Chairman of the Governance and Ethics Committee will also sign the Statement of Approval and the S151 Officer and Chairman of the Governance and Ethics Committee will sign the letters of representation.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

11. That
 - a) The contents of the External Audit Report 2020/21 are commented upon.
 - b) The letters of representation are approved.
 - c) The Committee delegates responsibility to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Chair of Governance & Ethics Committee, to approve the Statement of Accounts 2020/21 on completion of all external audit work

Councillor Philip Owen
Chairman of Governance and Ethics Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (CH 20/09/2021)

12. The recommendations fall within the delegation to Governance and Ethics Committee under its terms of reference.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All