

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

27th September 2012

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & REPORT 2011/12

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

To approve the Statement of Accounts (the Statement) for the financial year ended 31st March 2012 following completion of the external audit.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve the Annual Statement of Accounts 2011/12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the annual audit process for 2011/12, the Audit Commission have prepared their Annual Governance Report (to be considered separately on this agenda) summarising their findings for consideration prior to issue of their opinion, conclusion & certificate.

Following identification as part of the audit, a number of amendments have been discussed & agreed with the Audit Commission. These have been actioned within the Final Statement of Accounts for 2011/12 as attached at **Appendix 1**. It is important to note that these adjustments relate to minor presentational or disclosure issues and do not have any impact on the net balances of the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account or Collection Fund.

The guidance requires the Chair of the Cabinet meeting to sign and date the Statement of Accounts with the intention that the Chair's signature formally represents the completion of the Council's approval process of the accounts.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

For 2011/12, a revenue budget underspend for the General Fund of £0.9m is reported with an increase in General Fund closing balances of £210k. The Housing Revenue Account reports an underspend of £79k with a reduction in Housing Revenue Account closing balances of £0.6m.

It should be noted that the Medium Term Financial Strategy identified required balances of £4.2m (at 1st April 2012) compared to the draft actual closing balances of £4.7m - additional balances of £509k. For the HRA balances of £4.7m were forecast at 1st April 2012 compared to the actual balances of £4.5m - fewer balances of £221k.

Balances above the minimum will be required to provide additional funds for uncertainties regarding future Government funding arrangements.

The outturn for the 2011/12 capital programme identifies an underspend of £1.604m against the approved budget of £6.769m (actual spend £5.165m - no change since Provisional Outturn). However, it has been approved that £1.489m of scheme spend be re-profiled into 2012/13. This will result in an overall underspend of £115k for the 2011/12 capital programme.

For disclosure purposes, the accounts include a note of the forecast revenue outturn of the joint waste service for the year ended 31st March 2012 as this is the latest information. No material change is expected.

LEGAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS

Current legislation, detailed in Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, requires a Committee of the Council to approve the Statement by 30th September 2012 and for the Council to publish the Statement together with the Auditors opinion by 30th September 2012.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

CONCLUSIONS

Following consideration of the External Auditors Annual Governance Report and the approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts, the Chair's signature formally represents the successful completion of the Council's approval process of the accounts for 2011/12.

REPORT AUTHOR

Stefan Garner, Director of Finance

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Capital Outturn Report 2011/12 - Cabinet, 13^h June 2012
Provisional Outturn Report 2011/12 - Cabinet, 13th June 2012
Draft Annual Statement of Accounts & Report 2011/12 - Audit & Governance Committee, 28th June 2012