

## AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

26<sup>th</sup> September 2013

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

#### ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & REPORT 2012/13

#### EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

#### PURPOSE

To approve the Statement of Accounts (the Statement) for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 following completion of the external audit.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**That Members approve the Annual Statement of Accounts 2012/13**

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the annual audit process for 2012/13, the Council's External Auditors, Grant Thornton, have prepared their Audit Findings Report (to be considered separately on this agenda) for consideration prior to issue of their opinion, conclusion & certificate.

Following identification as part of the audit, a small number of amendments have been discussed & agreed with the Audit Commission. These have been actioned within the Final Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 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 reported outturn position and net balances of the General Fund (GF), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) or Collection Fund.

Regulations require 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 2012/13, a revenue budget underspend for the General Fund of £0.669m is reported with a reduction in General Fund closing balances of £0.102m (budgeted decrease of £0.770m). The HRA reports an underspend of £1.90m with an increase in HRA closing balances of £0.78m (budgeted decrease of £1.120m).

It should be noted that the Medium Term Financial Strategy identified required balances of £4.222m (at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013) compared to the actual closing balances of £4.619m - additional balances of £0.397m. For the HRA balances of £4.774m were

forecast at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 compared to the actual balances of £5.267m - additional balances of £0.493m.

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

The outturn for the 2012/13 capital programme identifies an underspend of £5.885m against the approved budget of £10.872m (actual spend £4.987m - no change since Provisional Outturn). However, it has been approved that £4.778m of scheme spend be re-profiled into 2013/14. This will result in an overall underspend of £1.107m for the 2012/13 capital programme.

## **LEGAL / RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Current legislation, detailed in Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, requires a Committee of the Council to approve the Statement by 30<sup>th</sup> September and for the Council to publish the Statement together with the Auditors' opinion by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Following consideration of the External Auditors' Audit Findings 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 2012/13.

## **REPORT AUTHOR**

Stefan Garner, Director of Finance

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Capital Outturn Report 2012/13 - Cabinet, 20<sup>h</sup> June 2013  
Provisional Outturn Report 2012/13 - Cabinet, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013  
Draft Annual Statement of Accounts & Report 2012/13 - Audit & Governance Committee, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013