

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

25th September 2014

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & REPORT 2013/14

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

To approve the Statement of Accounts (the Statement) for the financial year ended 31st March 2014 following completion of the external audit.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members approve the Annual Statement of Accounts 2013/14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the annual audit process for 2013/14, 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 2013/14 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, Housing Revenue Account or Collection Fund.

Regulations require that, following presentation of the External Auditor's Audit Findings Report & Annual Statement of Accounts 2013/14, the Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee sign and dates 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 2013/14, a revenue budget underspend for the General Fund of £0.706m is reported with a reduction in General Fund closing balances of £0.049m. The Housing Revenue Account reports an underspend of £0.812m with an increase in Housing Revenue Account closing balances of £0.214m.

It should be noted that the Medium Term Financial Strategy identified required balances of £4.427m (at 1st April 2014) compared to the draft actual closing balances of £4.57m - additional balances of £0.143m. For the HRA balances of

£5.3m were forecast at 1st April 2014 compared to the actual balances of £5.481m - additional balances of £0.181m.

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

The outturn for the 2013/14 Capital Programme identifies an underspend of £3.827m against the approved budget of £12.757m (actual spend £8.941m - £11k change since Provisional Outturn). However, it has been requested that £2.848m of scheme spend be re-profiled into 2014/15. This will result in an overall underspend of £0.979m for the 2013/14 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 30th September and for the Council to publish the Statement together with the Auditors opinion by 30th September 2014.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

CONCLUSIONS

Following consideration of the External Auditor's 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 2013/14.

REPORT AUTHOR

Stefan Garner, Director of Finance

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Capital Outturn Report 2013/14 - Cabinet, 19^h June 2014
Performance Healthcheck (including Provisional Outturn Report 2013/14) - Cabinet, 19th June 2014
Draft Annual Statement of Accounts & Report 2013/14 - Audit & Governance Committee, 26th June 2014