

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/20 - ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMBER WORKING GROUP

Audit Committee - 16 July 2020

Report of Chief Officer - Finance and Trading

Status For Decision

Key Decision No

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Matthew Dickins

Contact Officer(s) Alan Mitchell, Ext. 7483

Adrian Rowbotham, Ext. 7153

Recommendation to Audit Committee: That a Member Working group be set up, to review the 2019/20 draft Statement of Accounts with delegated authority to recommend changes to the draft whilst ensuring adherence to statutory regulations for the purposes of reporting back to the Audit Committee.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The overall timetable reducing the time available to produced audited financial statements was introduced for 2017/18 so that the draft Statement of Accounts must be prepared by 31 May, audited and approved by members by 31 July and these deadlines where achieved for 2017/18, 2018/19.
- 2 However this year due to COVID-19, CIPFA resolved the following changes:
 - The publication deadline for final, audited, accounts is now 30 November 2020 for all local authority bodies;
 - The requirement for the public inspection period to include the first 10 working days of June has been removed. Instead local authorities must commence their public inspection period on or before, the first working day of September 2020;
 - Draft accounts must be published by the authority by 31 August 2020 at the latest.
- 3 The draft accounts in agreement with Grant Thornton have been produced and published on 30 June 2020 and the external audit commenced on 8 July 2020.
- 4 For a number of years, a Member Working Group has been set up to look at the draft Statement of Accounts, with the authority to recommend changes

whilst ensuring that they still adhere to the statutory regulations and report back to the Audit Committee.

- 5 As the Statement of Accounts are very detailed, the working group should give the wider Committee greater confidence in approving the Statements of Accounts.
- 6 The Head of Finance will agree a meeting date with the members of the working group.
- 7 Members of last year's working group were Cllrs. McGarvey, Morris, Kitchener and Pender.

Key Implications

Financial

None directly arising from this report.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

None directly arising from this report.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Appendices None

Background Papers None

Adrian Rowbotham

Chief Officer - Finance and Trading