

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23 - ESTABLISHMENT OF MEMBER WORKING GROUP

Audit Committee - 4 July 2023

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance and Trading

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report seeks to establish a member working group.

This report supports the Key Aim of: effective management of the Council's resources.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Kevin Maskell

Contact Officer: Alan Mitchell, Ext. 7483

Recommendation to Audit Committee:

That a Member Working group be set up, to review the 2022/23 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.

Reason for recommendation:

This recommendation supports the sound control of the Council's finances.

Introduction and Background

- 1 Over the last few years there have been a number of changes to the draft and audited Financial Statements deadlines. This was in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the pressures that this resulted in for both local authorities finance teams and external auditors.
- 2 The 2022/23 the unaudited Financial Statements were required to be published by 31 May 2023 and Sevenoaks was only 1 of 4 within Kent to meet that deadline. The Accounts and Audit Regulations (Amended) 2022 established a deadline of 31 September for the publication of audited accounts for six years from 2022/23, extended from 31 July.

- 3 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.
- 4 As the Statement of Accounts are very detailed, the working group should give the wider Committee greater confidence in approving the Statement of Accounts.
- 5 The working group should meet in September and then report to the Audit Committee with the audited financial statements.
- 6 The Members who attended last year's working group were Cllrs. McGarvey and Pender and independent Member Linda McMullen.

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.

Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Adrian Rowbotham

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance & Trading