

Allerdale Borough Council

Audit Committee – 24 November 2020

Audited Statement of Accounts 2019-20

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| Portfolio holder | Councillor Jim Lister PH Finance and Legal |
| Report from | Catherine Nicholson, Head of Financial Services, telephone: 01900-702503 email: catherine.nicholson@allerdale.gov.uk |
| Wards affected | None directly |
| Is this a key decision | No |

1.0 The reason for the decision

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to members of the Audit Committee the Authority's 2019-20 audited statement of accounts for consideration and approval.
- 1.2 Following the end of the year to which the statement of accounts relates the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) require the Authority:
- (a) to consider, either by way of a committee or by the members meeting as a whole, the statement of accounts;
 - (b) following that consideration, to approve the statement of accounts by a resolution of that committee or meeting;
 - (c) following approval, to ensure that the statement of accounts is signed and dated by the person presiding at the committee or meeting at which that approval was given.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Following consideration of the statement of accounts included in Appendix 1, members of the Audit Committee are recommended to:
- (i). approve the statement of accounts and that following approval that the Chair of the Audit Committee signs and dates the statement of accounts
 - (ii). approve, subject to receipt of the signed audit opinion, publication of the statement of accounts by the statutory deadline of 30 November 2020.

3.0 Background and Introduction

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234) (the Accounts and Audit Regulations), as amended, require:
- the Authority to prepare a statement of accounts for each financial year in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts
 - the responsible financial officer (the s151 Officer) to certify that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority at the end of the year to which it relates and of its income and expenditure for that year.
- 3.2 For the financial year 2019-20, changes made to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 required certification of the unaudited statement of accounts by the responsible financial officer and the publication of those statements, to be completed no later than 31 August 2020.
- 3.3 The Accounts and Audit Regulations also require the Authority:
- (a) to consider either by way of a committee or by the members meeting as a whole the statement of accounts;
 - (b) following that consideration, to approve the statement of accounts by a resolution of that committee or meeting;
 - (c) following approval, to ensure that the statement of accounts is signed and dated by the person presiding at the committee or meeting at which that approval was given.
- 3.4 For the financial year 2019-20 the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 pushed back the deadline for approval and publication of the audited statement of accounts from 31 July to 30 November 2020.
- 3.5 Prior to approval by members of the audited statement of accounts the Accounts and Audit Regulations require the responsible financial officer to re-certify that the statement of accounts a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position and financial performance.
- 3.6 The Authority's statement of accounts for 2019-20 - included in Appendix 1 - have been prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts. These (proper practices) are defined in the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/3146) (as amended) and primarily comprise of the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019-2020, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- 3.7 In accordance with the timetable set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations, as amended by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, the Authority's unaudited statement of accounts for 2019-20 was certified by the s151 Officer (Head of Financial Services) and authorised for issue on 14 August 2020. The accounts were published on the Authority's website on 17 August 2020. The accounts were then subject to external audit by Grant Thornton

LLP. The audited statements were subsequently recertified by the s151 officer on 24 November in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

- 3.8 Following receipt of the signed audit opinion from the Authority's external auditors the audited statement of Accounts will be published by the statutory deadline of 30 November. To meet the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations this will include publication of the statements on the Authority's website.

4.0 Amendments to the Statement of Accounts

- 4.1 The Head of Financial Services and senior finance staff have worked with Grant Thornton to address matters raised during the audit process and, where necessary, make amendments to the Authority's statement of accounts in advance of their publication.
- 4.2 The audited statement of accounts included at Appendix 1 incorporate all agreed amendments to the unaudited statement of accounts authorised for issue and submitted for audit on 17 August 2020.
- 4.3 Details of amendments made to the statements and other significant issues arising from the audit process are summarised in the external auditor's Audit Findings Report which is presented alongside this report.

5.0 Delivery arrangements

- 5.1 Not applicable to this decision/report

6.0 Implications and Impact

Contribution to Council Strategy Priorities, Outputs and Outcomes

- 6.1 Not applicable to this decision/report.

Finance/Resource implications

- 6.2 Financial issues and implications are included within the main body of this report.

Legal and governance implications

- 6.3 Legal and governance issues are set out in the main body of this report.

Risk analysis

- 6.4 Not applicable to this decision/report.

Increasing satisfaction and service

- 6.5 Not applicable to this decision/report.

Equality impacts

- 6.6 Not applicable to this decision/report.

Health and Safety impacts

6.7 Not applicable to this decision/report.

Health, wellbeing and community safety impacts

6.8 Not applicable to this decision/report.

Environmental/sustainability impacts

6.9 Not applicable to this decision/report.

Other significant implications

6.10 There are no other significant implications arising from report.

Appendices attached to this report

| Appendix | Title of appendix |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Audited Statement of Accounts 2019-20 |

Background documents available

| Name of background document | Where it is available |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| None | N/A |

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