

Allerdale Borough Council

Audit Committee – 28 November 2022

Audited Statement of Accounts 2021-22

Portfolio holder	Councillor Colin Sharpe PH Finance and Legal
Report from	Catherine Nicholson, Chief Officer - Assets (s151 Officer) telephone: 07711 634180 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 2021-22 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.

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 sign and date the statement of accounts and confirm that it presents 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 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.
- 3.3 Prior to approval of the audited statement of accounts by members, the Accounts and Audit Regulations require the responsible financial officer to re-certify that the statement of accounts present a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position and financial performance.
- 3.4 After approving the statement of accounts the Authority is required publish (which must include publication on the Authority's website), no later than the deadline set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations:
- (a) the statement of accounts together with any certificate or opinion, entered by the local auditor in accordance with section 20(2) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014
 - (b) the annual governance statement approved in accordance with regulation 6(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations, and
 - (c) the narrative statement prepared in accordance with regulation 8.
- 3.5 In response to the recommendations of the independent Redmond Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting, The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (SI no 2021/263) made a number of amendments to the Accounts and Audit Regulations. These changes, which apply to the statement of accounts for financial years 2020-21 and 2021-22, included:
- extending the deadline for principal local authorities to publish their audited statement of accounts and supporting documents, from 31 July to 30 September following the end of financial year to which the accounts relate, and
 - amending the requirements relating to the period for the exercise of public rights to extend the deadline for principal local authorities to

publish their unaudited statement of accounts and supporting documents from 31 May to 31 July.

- 3.6 Further changes to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 were made in 2022. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2022 (SI 2022/708), came into force on 22 July 2022 and extend the deadline for publishing audited local authority accounts from 30 September to 30 November 2022 for the 2021-22 accounts. Following this, the deadline will revert to 30 September for 6 years, taking effect for the 2022-23 accounts and ending once the 2027-28 accounts have been completed.
- 3.7 Where the audit of the accounts has not been concluded before the specified date (i.e. 30 November for the 2021-22 statement of accounts) publication of the audited statement accounts must take place as soon as reasonably practicable after the receipt of the auditor's opinion.
- 3.8 The Authority's statement of accounts for 2021-22, prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts, are included in Appendix 1 to this report. 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 2021-22, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- 3.9 In accordance with the timetable set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations, as amended by The Accounts and Audit (amendment) Regulations 2021 (SI no 2021/263), the Authority's unaudited statement of accounts for 2021-22 were certified by the s151 Officer (Chief Officer - Assets) and authorised for issue on 29 July 2022. The accounts were, published on the Authority's website, along with the draft Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report, on 29 July 2022. The accounts were then subject to external audit by Grant Thornton UK LLP. The audited statements were re-certified by the s151 officer on 28 November 2022 in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
- 3.10 Following receipt of the signed audit opinion from the Authority's external auditors, the audited statement of Accounts will be published as soon as is reasonably practicable. 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 Chief Officer - Assets 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 29 July 2022.

4.3 Details of the 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 2021-22

Background documents available

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

Report author(s) and contact officer(s):

Barry Lennox
Senior Manager - Finance (Deputy s151 Officer)
telephone no: 07355 032774
email: <mailto:barry.lennox@allerdale.gov.uk>