

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**DATE OF MEETING:** 28 MARCH 2023

**TITLE OF REPORT:** STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, LETTER OF REPRESENTATION AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/2022

**Report of:** Executive Director - Corporate and S151 Officer

**Cabinet Member:** Councillor James Radley, Finance and Corporate Services

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek the Committee's approval of the Statement of Accounts 2021/22, amended following the external audit, the Letter of Representation and the Annual Governance Statement.

### **2. OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That Audit Committee approve the:

- Statement of Accounts 2021/2022
- Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

2.2 That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director - Corporate in consultation with the Chairman of Audit Committee, to approve any non-material changes to the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts that arise from the final external audit review work, and to approve the letter of representation

### **3. BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

3.1 The content of the Statement of Accounts is largely determined by statutory requirements and mandatory professional standards as set out within The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (The Code). The Council's unaudited Statement of Accounts 2021/22 were signed off and published in July 2022 by the Interim S151 Officer. During the course of the audit, a number of matters have been identified as requiring adjustment, the most notable items are listed in EY's Audit Results Report, some minor presentational changes and accounting adjustments have also come to light. These changes are reflected in the final version for approval at Appendix 1.

3.2 Members should note that the external auditor's results report indicates that the 2021/22 accounts are expected to receive an unqualified opinion (i.e. the Council's financial records and statements are fairly and appropriately presented).

3.3 As the external audit work is still subject to final review at the time of writing this report, as set out in EY's results report, it is requested that delegated authority be given to the Executive Director - Corporate in consultation with the Chairman of Audit

Committee, to approve any non-material changes to the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts that arise from the final audit review work. At that stage, the letter of representation can also be completed. This letter is jointly from the S151 Officer and Chairman of the Audit Committee to the auditor and it summarises various assurances given by the council in relation to the accounts and audit. It will follow the format and content set out in Appendix B of EY's Audit Results Report. Audit Committee is asked to delegate the final drafting of this letter to the Executive Director - Corporate in consultation with the Chairman of Audit Committee.

#### **4. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None

Contact: Graeme Clark, Executive Director --Corporate and S151 Officer

#### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Statement of Accounts 2021/2022 (version 2.0)

Appendix 2 – Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022