

Corporate Governance and Standards Committee Report

Report of the Chief Financial Officer

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2017-18 Audited Statement of Accounts

Executive Summary

The terms of reference of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee include approval of the statutory Statement of Accounts on behalf of the Council. The audited Statement of Accounts are attached at Appendix 1. The Audit Findings report, presented elsewhere on this agenda, covers the changes made to the accounts between the draft accounts, issued on 31 May 2018 and presented to Corporate Governance and Standards Committee on 14 June 2018, and the audited accounts.

Recommendation to Committee

It is recommended that

1. the Committee approves the audited Statement of Accounts 2017-18, as set out in Appendix 1, and
2. the Chairman of the Committee signs the official copy of the accounts to state they are approved.

Reason for Recommendation:

To approve the Statement of Accounts for 2017-18.

In order to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 the statutory Statement of Accounts requires approval by 31 July. This is two months earlier than in previous years. A complex technical accounting issue arose towards the end of the audit in respect of the accounting treatment of the lease for Onslow Park and Ride and its subsequent valuation in the Council's accounts. The Director of Finance and the Associate Audit Director (Grant Thornton) agreed a resolution to the matter, but the tight deadline meant it was not possible to make the required adjustments in time for the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee meeting of the 26 July 2018 to approve the accounts. Consequently, this special meeting of the committee has been convened to approve the revised Statement of Accounts for 2017-18.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report presents the audited statutory Statement of Accounts 2017-18 for approval by the Committee.

2. Strategic Framework

- 2.1 Good financial management underpins the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The terms of reference of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee include approval of the statutory Statement of Accounts on behalf of the Council.
- 3.2 The Committee received the draft statement of accounts for 2017-18 at its meeting on 14 June 2018.
- 3.3 The external auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP, has completed the audit and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) has re-certified the Statement of Accounts.
- 3.4 The Audit Findings report, presented elsewhere on this agenda, covers the changes made to the accounts between the draft accounts, issued on 31 May 2018 and presented to Corporate Governance and Standards Committee on 14 June 2018, and the audited accounts. The audited accounts attached at Appendix 1 include the changes.
- 3.5 The external auditor intends to issue an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require that the Council or a committee must consider and approve the statement of accounts no later than 31 July. The Council has delegated this responsibility to the Corporate Governance and Standards committee.
- 5.2 The Accounts and Audit regulations also require the person presiding at the meeting to sign and date the statements that we must then publish, accompanied

by the auditor's report, no later than 31 July. The identification of a complex technical accounting issue late in the audit meant there was not sufficient time to make the required accounting adjustments to the accounts, in order to present the Statement of Accounts for 2017-18 to the scheduled meeting of the Corporate Governance and Standards Committee on the 26 July. This special meeting of the committee has been convened to approve the accounts.

6. Human Resource Implications

6.1 There are no human resource implications arising from of this report.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The audit of the 2017-18 accounts is complete and the independent auditor intends to issue an unqualified opinion on the financial statements, which the CFO has re-certified in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

8. Background Papers

None

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statement of Accounts 2017-18