

<b>Report to:</b>	Audit and Corporate Governance Committee	21 February 2023
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor John Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Resources	
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Peter Maddock, Head of Finance	

## Completion of Accounts for 2019/20

### Executive Summary

1. The audited statement of accounts for the year 2019/20 are attached for approval at Appendix A. Once approved and signed the auditors can complete their final processes before they sign the accounts. There is also a balance sheet comparison showing the changes since the draft accounts approved in July 2022 at Appendix B.

### Recommendations

2. That Committee approve the audited statement of accounts for 2019/20.
3. That Committee note that the 2019/20 accounts audit is complete save for final procedures to be carried out by the Auditors.

### Details

#### Statement of Accounts 2019/20

4. The audited statement of accounts for 2019/20 is reproduced as Appendix A to this report. There is also a Balance sheet with the changes shown since the draft accounts were presented in July 2022 as Appendix B.
5. The main change shown relates to two housing beacon assets that had been transferred from assets under to construction to operational housing stock but had been omitted from the listing sent to the valuers. The conclusion is that the value of these properties was estimated to be overstated by £570,000 and hence the overall value reported under Property Plant and Equipment should be reduced by that amount. The correction also adjusts the usable and unusable reserves by the
6. amounts shown.

7. There are also a number of disclosure changes requested by the auditors within the various notes but these are of a minor nature.

## **Options**

8. The report asks the committee to approve the accounts. The committee has this with its terms of reference so not carrying out this function could not be recommended.

## **Implications**

9. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

## **Financial**

10. Timely and robust consideration of the Council's budgets is vital to ensure that financial statements are correctly stated, financial procedures are followed and that the financial position of the Council is effectively managed and monitored.

## **Legal**

11. There is a requirement under the Accountancy and Audit Regulations for Council's to present their accounts for the preceding financial year for audit by 31st of May each year and for those accounts to be audited and published by 31 July each year.

## **Risks/Opportunities**

12. There is a risk that the financial statements are incorrectly stated with consequential impacts. The purpose of the external audit is to mitigate this risk. This is still a significant risk going forward but with dedicated experienced resources now tasked with dealing with auditor queries and accounts completion the risk should be mitigated.

## **Alignment with Council Priority Areas**

### **A modern and caring Council**

13. Producing an annual statement of accounts is key to supplementing the financial information already in the public domain, to ensure the full transparency of the Council's financial affairs.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A Final Statement of Accounts for 2019/20

Appendix B Balance Sheet comparison

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