

Cherwell District Council

Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee

12 September 2018

<p>Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 and Letter of Representation</p>

Report of the Executive Director, Finance & Governance

This report is public

Purpose of report

For members to consider the following: The Statement of Accounts 2017/18; Annual Governance Statement 2017/18; and, the Letter of Representation 2017/18.

1.0 Recommendations

The committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve the Statement of Accounts 2017/18.
- 1.2 Endorse the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18.
- 1.3 Approve the Letter of Representation 2017/18.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with all relevant statutory reporting requirements.
- 2.2 The statutory timescale requires the Statement of Accounts to be approved by the S151 Officer and received by the Councils External Auditor, Ernst & Young (EY) by 31 May 2018. Following this the accounts are audited in advance of the External Auditor, Ernst & Young setting out their opinion on the accounts.
- 2.3 The Annual Governance Statement sets out the assurance framework in place across the Council and an assessment of this during 2017/18.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The timescales for production and auditing of the 2017/18 Statement of Accounts are shorter than in previous years. The Council has worked closely with External Audit to review the timescales and deliver the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18.
- 3.2 The Statement of Accounts set out the financial performance of the Council during 2017/18 and provides useful information for the public and stakeholders to identify how the Council has managed public resources across the district.
- 3.3 The Annual Governance Statement is part of the CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework. It is a wide ranging document that is governance focussed and must be considered and “owned” corporately.
- 3.4 The Annual Governance Statement describes our governance arrangements and assesses how closely we align with good practice. In overall terms this is a positive statement for the financial year 2017/18.
- 3.5 The Annual Governance Statement takes assurance from several mechanisms including the internal audit work, internal audit reports throughout the year, the work of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee, the scrutiny process and external audit.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in a timely manner and in accordance with statutory requirements. The Annual Governance Statement provides assurance on the Governance Framework in place across the Council.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 None

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

7.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by:

Richard Hawtin, Team Leader – Non-contentious, 01295 221695

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Risk Management Implications

7.3 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by: Louise Tustian

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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All wards are affected

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All corporate plan themes.

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2017/18
Appendix 2	Letter of Representation
Background Papers	
None	
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