

# **Cherwell District Council**

## **Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee**

**31 July 2019**

<p><b>Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 and Letter of Representation</b></p>
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### **Report of the Executive Director, Finance (Interim)**

This report is public

#### **Purpose of report**

To receive a report is to ask members to consider the following:

- The Statement of Accounts 2018/19.
- Annual Governance Statement 2018/19.
- Letter of Representation 2018/19.

#### **1.0 Recommendations**

The committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve the Statement of Accounts 2018/19.
- 1.2 Endorse the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19.
- 1.3 Approve the Letter of Representation 2018/19.

#### **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 required that the Statement of Accounts were approved by the S151 Officer and received by the Councils External Auditor, Ernst & Young (EY) by 31 May 2019. Following this the accounts are audited in advance of the External Auditor, Ernst & Young setting out their opinion on the accounts and reported to this committee by 31 July 2019.
- 2.3 The Annual Governance Statement sets out the assurance framework in place across the Council and an assessment of this during 2018/19.

- 2.4 The Letter of Representation is an important part of the audit process whereby the Council, via the Section 151 Officer provides representations around the operation of the Council that allows and helps the auditors to form their opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view.

### **3.0 Report Details**

- 3.1 The timescales for production and auditing of the 2018/19 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 2018/19.
- 3.2 The Statement of Accounts set out the financial performance of the Council during 2018/19 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 2018/19.
- 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 th

e 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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[dominic.oakeshott@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.oakeshott@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

### **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**

<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2018/19
Appendix 2	Letter of Representation
<b>Background Papers</b>	
None	
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