

Cherwell District Council

Accounts Audit and Risk Committee

17 March 2021

External Audit Update - Statement of Accounts Update

Report of the Director of Finance

This report is public

Purpose of report

To receive a report to ask Members to consider the following:

- Changes to be incorporated to the draft statement of accounts.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 That the Final Statement of Accounts 2019/20 be endorsed, with the changes in Appendix 1 already added, and once the final audit opinion is received the Director Finance (S151 Officer), in consultation with the Chair of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee (or Vice Chair in case the Chairman is unavailable) be authorised to sign the accounts and it be noted that if any material changes to the accounts are required, then an additional committee meeting would be convened to consider the changes.
- 1.2 Agree that the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee (or Deputy Chair in their absence), can make any further changes to the letters of representation that may arise during completion of the audit.

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 August 2020. 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.
- 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 2019/20 Statement of Accounts are longer than in previous years due to the ongoing impacts of Covid-19.
- 3.2 The Statement of Accounts set out the financial performance of the Council during 2019/20 and provides useful information for the public and stakeholders to identify how the Council has managed public resources across the district.
- 3.3 The Appendix to this report sets out the changes that the Council has made to the Final statement of accounts based on the Audit Findings Report so far.
- 3.4 We are taking the Final Set of accounts to committee now, the changes highlighted in **Appendix 2**, are in addition to those agreed by the Committee in January 2020

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The external audit has not yet reached conclusion and so we are presenting what we expect to be the Final Set of Accounts, subject to Final Audit Checks. As the audit is approaching its conclusion, this report identifies the material changes to the draft statement of accounts to the final Statement of Accounts 2019/20.

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:

Michael Furness, Assistant Director of Finance, 01295 221845,
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Legal Implications

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:
Chris Mace, Solicitor, 01295 221808, christopher.mace@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Risk Implications

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

Comments checked by:
Celia Prado-Teeling, Team Leader Performance & Insight, 01295 221556,
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8.0 Decision Information

Key Decision N/A as not an Executive report

Financial Threshold Met: N/A

Community Impact Threshold Met: N/A

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All Corporate Plan themes

Lead Councillor

N/A

Document Information

Appendix number and title

- Appendix 1 – Final 2019/20 Statement of Accounts
- Appendix 2 – Statement of Accounts 2019/20 Changes

Background papers

None

Report Author and contact details

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