

**AUDIT COMMITTEE  
28 JULY 2021**

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**FINAL ACCOUNTS UPDATE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Members with an update on the situation with regards to the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts (SoA) and Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2020/21.

**Summary**

2. Due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 have been issued to update the statutory deadlines for publication of annual accounts. Whereas the original date for publication (and approval) was 31 July 2021 this has now been amended to 30 September 2021 as was mentioned in a report on the Redmond review to this Committee on 27 January 2021.
3. Although the Council is still following these dates and will have its unaudited SoA and AGS on the website by 31 July 2021, we have been informed by our external auditors Ernst & Young (EY) that they will not be in a position to deliver the audit by the 30 September 2021 and will look to perform the audit throughout October and early November. **Appendix 1** is an open letter to Chief Finance Officers and Audit Committee Chairs setting out the national stance of EY and the circumstances and background behind the position taken.
4. The legislation states that if audited accounts are not ready to be published by the 30 September then a statement explaining the reasons for the delay should be published instead.
5. All of the above will mean that there will need to be, with the permission of the Chair, a special Audit Committee called in December 2021 to ensure the SoA and AGS is approved as quickly as possible.

**Recommendation**

6. Members are asked to note the above.

**Reasons**

7. The recommendations are supported to provide the Audit Committee with evidence to reflect on progress in delivery of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.

**Elizabeth Davison**  
**Group Director of Operations**

**Background Papers**

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2020/21

Peter Carrick: Extension 5401

S17 Crime and Disorder	There is no specific crime and disorder impact.
Health and Well Being	There is no specific health and well being impact.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	Some of the initiatives contained within ICT Strategy will help contribute towards the carbon reduction commitments.
Diversity	There is no specific diversity impact.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected equally.
Groups Affected	All groups are affected equally.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not affect the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
Corporate Plan	There is no specific relevance to the Plan beyond the report comprising part of the Council's governance arrangements.
Efficiency	There is no specific efficiency impact.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	The report does not impact upon Looked After Children or Care Leavers.