



**AGENDA ITEM:
SUMMARY**

Report for:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Date of meeting:	27 July 2016
PART:	I
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Statement of Accounts 2015/16
Contact:	<p>Cllr G Elliot, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources</p> <p>James Deane, Corporate Director (Finance and Operations)</p> <p>David Skinner, Assistant Director (Finance and Resources)</p> <p>Richard Baker, Group Manager (Financial Services)</p>
Purpose of report:	<p>The purpose of this report is to present the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2015/16. It covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Account and Audit Regulations 2015 · Section 21(2) Local Government Act 2003 · Statement of Accounts · Commentary on financial statements ·
Recommendations:	<p>It is recommended that Members of the Audit Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) review the Statement of Accounts 2015/16 and raise any issues which will provide them with the assurance that they need to approve the Statements on behalf of the Council; b) subject to consideration of the External Auditor's Annual Governance Report, approve the Letter of Representation as attached at Appendix B in the capacity of those charged with Governance; and c) subject to (a) above, approve the Statement of Accounts for 2015/16.
Corporate objectives:	Corporate Governance
Statutory Officer Comments:	<p>Section 151 Officer :</p> <p>My comments are included within the body of this report and within the commentary and explanatory foreword to the Statement of Accounts.</p>

	<p>Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>The Council has a statutory duty to approve the Statement of Accounts by 30 September in accordance with the Account and Audit Regulations 2011.</p>
Consultees:	None
Background papers:	None

BACKGROUND

1. The Account and Audit Regulations 2015 require that local authorities must approve their financial statements by 30 September. The Appointed Auditor must complete his audit and issue the relevant audit opinion to ensure the statutory deadline is met.
2. The purpose of the external audit of the financial statements is to give an opinion on:
 - a) whether they present a “true and fair” view of the financial position of the audited body and its expenditure and income for the year in question; and
 - b) whether they have been prepared properly in accordance with relevant legislation and applicable accounting standards.
3. The Auditor’s opinion is added to the Statement of Accounts, with further detail of the audit findings provided in the Annual Audit Letter to the Council.
4. The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2015/16 (the Code) issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Statement of Accounts

5. It is the role of the Corporate Director (Finance and Operations) to present the Council’s annual Statement of Accounts to this Committee for formal approval.
6. The published accounts of the Council are an essential means by which it accounts for its stewardship of the resources at its disposal and its financial performance in the use of those resources. The Corporate Director (Finance and Operations), is required to:
 - a) ensure the regularity of transactions, by putting in place systems of internal control to ensure that financial transactions are lawful;
 - b) maintain proper accounting records; and
 - c) prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position of the body and its expenditure and income.

7. The Statement of Accounts includes an explanatory foreword which provides a user-friendly guide to the most significant matters reported in the accounts together with an overview of the Council's financial performance throughout the year, which was previously reported to Audit Committee on 29 June 2016.

Changes to the Accounts Approved by the Corporate Director (Finance and Operations) on 29 June 2016

8. There have been no material changes to the Statement of Accounts since the report to Audit Committee on 29 June 2016. Any significant amendments to the accounts will be set out in the Auditors Results Report.

Conclusion

9. The report represents a detailed picture of the Council's financial activity for 2015/16. I would like to thank all colleagues for their help, support and dedication in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts.