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**REPORT TO THE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF 26<sup>TH</sup> July 2017**

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**Status:** Open  
**Title:** Draft Statement of Accounts  
**Originator:** Head of Finance & Corporate Services (s151 Officer)  
**Where from:** n/a  
**Where to next:** External Audit and sign off by Governance and Audit Committee

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1 Outcome Sought from Committee

1.1 To note the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts issued for audit attached at Appendix A.

2 Background

2.1 The financial statements are the main method of demonstrating financial accountability and stewardship.

2.2 The statements confirm the Council's financial position and can be used to inform key decisions going forward.

2.3 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require the Statement of Accounts to be produced and signed by the S151 Officer by the 30<sup>th</sup> June. Whilst the accounts are not formally signed off by the Governance and Audit Committee until late September a review of the draft accounts allow any issues raised by the Committee to be considered alongside the External Audit and public inspection of the Accounts. The Council is required to sign off the audited Statement of Accounts by the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

3 Points for Consideration

3.1 The Draft Statement of Accounts were produced and authorised for issue by the S151 Officer by the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017. These were then publicised for members of the public to examine the accounts between **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017.**

3.2 The Auditor has agreed that from the 3<sup>rd</sup> July to 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017 a local elector can make representations and ask queries of the External Auditor.

- 3.3 Over the summer the Council's appointed External Auditor, KPMG audit the accounts with a view to being able to issue their audit opinion by the 30<sup>th</sup> September. The auditor will issue two opinions
- (a) An opinion on the financial statement over whether they show a true a fair view
  - (b) A Value for Money conclusion in respect of the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- 3.4 The Accounts process is a very complex and time consuming task resulting in the production of the Statement of Accounts. For the financial year 2017/18 there will be a further challenge in producing the accounts by the end of May for audit by the end of July. This year we trialled producing the accounts to an end of May timetable, this highlighted the areas to address to meet this major challenge. The Council will review its accounting policies and practices following this audit in order to achieve the earlier timetable next year.
- 3.5 There were no significant changes in the Council's Accounting policies that was required for the 2016/17 Accounts. The CIPFA Code of Practice required changes to the format of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and some notes, but still allows for broad comparisons to be made between the two financial years.
- 4 Equality Impact Assessment
- 4.1 Not applicable
- 5 Conclusions
- 5.1 The draft accounts present the overall financial position of the Council and evidence that the Council's financial position demonstrates the Council is a Going Concern. Changes may be made during the audit as a result of Audit investigations and/or post balance sheet events.
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**Previous report(s): N/A**

**Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: N**

**Ward Members Notified: N**

**Appendices:**

**A. Draft Statement of Accounts 2016/17**