

	<b>Governance &amp; Audit Committee 22 June 2021</b>		<b>Item 7</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director – Corporate and Improvement</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	Not applicable	<b>Author</b>	<b>Paul Cook</b>

## 1 **Action required**

- 1.1 To note the draft 2020/21 statement of accounts.

## 2 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the draft statement of accounts.

## 3 **Background**

- 3.1 The 2015 Accounts and Audit Regulations have been amended because of the Coronavirus pandemic with the following effect.

Element	Normal Arrangement	2020/21 Accounts
Approval of accounts and publication by the Council	Not later than 31 July	Not later than 30 September
Public Inspection	Period to include the first 10 working days of June	Must commence on or before the first working day of August

- 3.2 Following discussions with BDO – the Council’s external auditors – the Council has closed its accounts on the normal timetable. This will enable finance resources to be focused on the budget challenges ahead.
- 3.3 The draft statement of accounts was signed by the Head of Finance 11 June 2020 and published on the Council’s website.
- 3.4 The 30 working days period for public inspection will commence after the approval of the Annual Governance Statement by 22 June Governance and Audit Committee. Public inspection will be undertaken electronically.
- 3.5 BDO have already undertaken some interim audit work and are now auditing the statements.
- 3.6 It is expected that BDO will not be prepared to sign the accounts at the conclusion of the audit until close to the long stop publication date of 30 September 2021. The closest planned Governance and Audit Committee is 7 September 2021.
- 3.7 The Narrative Statement sets out key achievements during 2020/21 and also considers the impact of Covid-19 on the Council and future financial issues.

3.8 More detailed reports on the 2020/21 revenue and capital outturns are included on this agenda.

## 1.2 **Strategic Plan references**

4.1 The Council's expenditure is aligned to the Strategic Plan.

## 5 **Financial implications**

5.1 Within this report

## 6 **Environmental and Sustainability Implications**

6.1 Future years' statements of accounts will reflect the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and its commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030. The environmental and sustainability implications of individual programmes will be thoroughly assessed with reference to the definition of sustainable development set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

## 7 **Equality and Diversity Implications**

7.1 Equality and diversity issues for individual projects are assessed in line with agreed policies and procedures including production of Equality Impact Assessments where appropriate.

## 8 **Risk management implications**

8.1 As set out in the statement of accounts

## 9 **Other standard references**

9.1 There are no direct Publicity, Human Rights, Community Safety or Health and Safety implications as a result of this report.

## 10 **Background papers**

10.1 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

10.2 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2021

10.3 Draft Statement of Accounts 2020-21