

13 September 2016

Report of	Assistant Chief Executive	Author	Steve Heath
Title	Annual Statement of Accounts 2015/16		☎ 282389
Wards affected	Not applicable		

This report presents the audited Statement of Accounts for 2015/16

1. Action required

- 1.1 To note the publication of the audited Statement of Accounts (SOA) for 2015/16.

2. Supporting information

- 2.1 The pre-audit SOA was certified by the responsible financial officer in accordance with the statutory deadline. A report was presented to this Committee on 28 June highlighting the availability of the draft accounts, and explaining the key financial statements. Following the submission of the Auditors' report to the Committee on 26 July, the Committee approved the audited accounts and the Section 151 Officer submitted the Letter of Representation providing assurance about the information within the SOA.
- 2.2 On 27 July the Auditor issued an unqualified opinion that the accounts give a true and fair view of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2016 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended. The audit was formally closed, and the audited accounts were published on the Council's website. Once again this year, the SOA has only been produced in an electronic format.
- 2.3 In submitting this report, and the earlier reports, the Council is following procedures set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. By law the Council must publish audited accounts by the statutory deadline of 30 September and this has been achieved.

3. Strategic Plan references

- 3.1 The objectives and priorities of the Strategic Plan informed all stages of the budget process for 2015/16.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1 The publication of the audited SOA meets a statutory requirement for financial reporting and is an important part of the process to demonstrate accountability in the use of public funds.

5. Publicity considerations

- 5.1 The availability of the SOA is advertised on the Council's website and can be accessed via the link shown below.

6. Other standard references

- 6.1 Having considered consultation, equality, diversity and human rights, health and safety and community safety and risk management implications, there are none that are significant to the matters in this report.

Background Papers

Available on the Colchester Borough Council website:

Audit of Accounts 2015/16

<http://www.colchester.gov.uk/article/16018/Audit-of-Accounts>

Statement of Accounts 2015/16

<http://www.colchester.gov.uk/article/11907/Statement-of-Accounts---Colchester-Borough-Council>

Draft Annual Statement of Accounts – Report to Governance & Audit Committee on 28 June 2016

<http://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/MeetingCalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/394/Committee/35/Default.aspx>

Annual Statement of Accounts – Report to Governance & Audit Committee on 26 July 2016

<http://colchester.cmis.uk.com/colchester/MeetingCalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/395/Committee/35/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>