

	<b>Governance &amp; Audit Committee 23 June 2020</b>		<b>Item 9</b>
<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director – Corporate and Improvement</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	Not applicable	<b>Author</b>	<b>Paul Cook</b> <b>☎ 505861</b>

## 1 **Action required**

- 1.1 To note the draft 2019/20 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	2019/20 Accounts
Approval of accounts and publication by the Council	Not later than 31 July	Not later than 30 November
Public Inspection	Period to include the first 10 working days of June	Must commence on or before the first working day of September

- 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 and published on the Council's website 11 June 2020. The 30 working days period for public inspection will commence after the approval of the Annual Governance Statement by 23 June Governance and Audit Committee. Public inspection will be undertaken electronically.
- 3.4 BDO have already undertaken some interim audit work and are now auditing the statements.
- 3.5 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 November 2020. The closest planned Governance and Audit Committee is 24 November 2020.
- 3.6 The key change in the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts is the consolidation of Colchester Amphora Holdings Ltd into the group accounts. This has been required given Amphora's greater scale of activity.

- 3.7 The Narrative Statement sets out key achievements during 2019/20 and also considers the future impact of Covid-19 on the council.
- 3.8 A more detailed report on the 2019/20 outturn will be made to 21 July 2020 Scrutiny Panel.

#### **4 .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 2016

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20