

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Corporate Director Resources and s.151 Officer	Audit Committee	28 September 2021	

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21 (POST AUDIT)**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To approve the council's published Statement of Accounts, following the completion of the audit, for the financial year 2020/21.

**2. Outcomes**

- 2.1 Evidence that the council produces accounts in accordance with relevant standards and timetables, supported by comprehensive working papers and promotes external accountability.
- 2.2 Compliance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

**3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 Members are requested to approve the Council's Statement of Accounts 2020/21.

**4. Background**

- 4.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021) require the council's responsible financial officer to certify that the accounts 'present a true and fair view of the financial position' for the 2020/21 financial year by the 31 July 2021 (the date has been extended from 31 May as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic). The council is then formally required to approve and publish the Statement of Accounts no later than 30 September 2021 (the date has been extended from 31 July as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic). Following approval, the Statement of Accounts must be signed and dated by the member presiding at the meeting at which approval is given.
- 4.2 The Audit Committee approved the unaudited accounts for the 2020/21 financial year at their meeting on 27 July 2021. Owing to internal and external capacity constraints as a result of the pandemic and expected delays to the audit of the pension fund, it is anticipated that the final

accounts sign off will be delayed beyond 30 September. There are no penalties associated with this but the council is required to publish a statement on the website explaining the delay. The vast majority of the work has been undertaken and therefore the committee can approve the accounts, with the Chair giving the ultimate sign-off following confirmation of completion by the external auditors, expected in October.

## 5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Issues raised as a result of the audit have now been reflected in a revised Statement of Accounts that will be published by the Council following this committee meeting and can be accessed via the website using the following link:

<https://www.wyre.gov.uk/council-budgets-spending-2/statement-accounts?documentId=187&categoryId=20200>

- 5.2** Details of the issues raised can be seen in the External Auditor's Report to those charged with governance (ISA 260) 2020/21, which is considered later on the agenda.

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>	
Finance	There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report. The final outturn position will be incorporated within the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 to 2025/26 which aims to provide detailed proposals for corporately managing the council's resources in the years ahead and is subject to continuous monitoring to ensure its effectiveness.
Legal	The approval of the recommendation will help ensure that the statutory requirements have been complied with.

### **Other risks/implications: checklist**

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
community safety	<b>x</b>
equality and diversity	<b>x</b>
sustainability	<b>x</b>
health and safety	<b>x</b>

<b>risks/implications</b>	<b>✓ / x</b>
asset management	<b>x</b>
climate change	<b>x</b>
ICT	<b>x</b>
data protection	<b>x</b>

### **Processing Personal Data**

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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<b>List of Background Papers:</b>		
Name of Document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		

### **LIST OF APPENDICES**

None