

North Tyneside Council

Report to Audit Committee

Date: 29 May 2024

Report from: Finance

Report Author: Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources **Tel: 643 5701**

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

1.1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit Committee with an update in respect of the closure of the 2023/24 accounts.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

1.2.1 It is recommended that the:

- (a) Audit Committee note the work outlined in respect of the closure of the 2023/24 accounts.

1.3 Forward plan:

1.3.1 This report is contained in the forward plan of the Audit Committee.

1.4 Council plan, policy framework:

1.4.1 The Annual Statement of Accounts covers all the service responsibilities as identified within the Council Plan.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 The Chief Finance Officer is required to produce a set of draft accounts by the end of May which present a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position for the year ended 31 March 2024.

1.5.2 These accounts are then then subject to external audit and under current rules should be approved and published no later than 30 September 2024. However, there are significant sector-wide delays relating to the publication of audited accounts and in February 2024 the Government

consulted the sector relating to a proposal to address the backlog, resetting the process and amending the deadlines. We are currently waiting the outcome of the consultation exercise to understand the implications for the completion of the 23/24 financial Statements.

Update on the preparation of the Annual Statement of Accounts 2023/24

- 1.5.3 Work on preparing the financial Statement is continuing in order to achieve the statutory deadline of 31 May. The Authority is currently waiting for pensions information which is due in the week commencing 20 May and a verbal update on progress will be given at the meeting.

1.6 Decision options:

- 1.6.1 The Audit Committee can agree to endorse the recommendations as set out in Section 1.2 of this report. Alternatively, the Audit Committee can decline to endorse the proposals and require further details and amendment.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

- 1.7.1 The Audit Committee is recommended to endorse the proposals set out in section 1.2 of this report as the production of the Audited Annual Statement of Accounts is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

1.8 Contact officers:

Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources, Tel 643 5701
David Mason, Head of Finance, Tel 643 3293
Susan Borthwick – Principal Accountant – Tel 643 5732

1.9 Background information:

- 1.9.1 The following background papers and reports have been used in the compilation of this report and are available for inspection at the offices of the author:

(a) Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

- 2.1.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations within this report.

2.2 Legal

2.2.1 The Authority has a duty to ensure that it produces a draft Annual Statement of Accounts by 31 May 2024 in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Consultation will take place with the key personnel and interested parties involved in the closedown process.

2.4 Human rights

2.4.1 There are no Human Rights implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

2.5.1 There are no Equalities and Diversity implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

2.6 Risk management

2.6.1 A risk log has been set up which identifies the key risks and issues associated with the closedown process. The management of these risks are part of the overall process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

2.7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

2.8.1 There are no environment and sustainability implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.