

North Tyneside Council Report to Audit Committee Date: 28 July 2021

Title: Draft Annual
Statement of Accounts
2020/21

Report from Service: Finance

Report Author: Janice Gillespie, 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 2020/21 accounts.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

1.2.1 It is recommended that the Audit Committee:

- (a) note the publication of the draft set of accounts in advance of the 31st July 2021 deadline; and
- (b) note that the External Audit commenced on 5 July 2021.

1.3 Council plan and policy framework:

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

1.4 Information: Update on the preparation of the 2020/21 Annual Statement of Accounts

1.4.1 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has put in place revised regulations that came into force on 31 March 2021. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) regulations 2021 extend the statutory audit deadlines for 2020/21 and 2021/22 for all local authorities.

1.4.2 The publication date for audited accounts has moved from 31 July to 30 September 2021 for all local authority bodies.

1.4.3 This represents a substantial change to the regulations as before the audited set of accounts was required to be approved and subsequently published by no later than 31 July 2020.

1.4.4 To give local authorities more flexibility, the requirement for the public inspection period to include the first 10 working days of June has been removed. Instead, local authorities

must commence the public inspection period on or before the first working day of August 2021. This means that a set of draft accounts must be published by 31 July 2021 at the latest. The public inspection period is 5 July to 13 August 2021.

1.4.5 A draft set of 2020/21 accounts have been produced and were published on the Authority's website on 5 July 2021. A summary of the main points in the accounts will be presented to the Audit Committee at its meeting.

1.4.6 The Authority's external auditors began their audit of the 2020/21 accounts on 5 July 2021 and this will run through to mid-September with the aim of having a signed off set of accounts published by the end of the month.

1.5 Decision options:

The options available are:

(a) To accept the recommendations made in section 1.2.1.

1.6 Reasons for recommended option:

The production of an Audited Annual Statement of Accounts is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

1.7 Appendices:

2020/21 – Draft Annual Statement of Accounts

1.8 Contact officers:

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Claire Emmerson – Senior Manager, Financial Strategy & Planning – Tel 643 8109

Peter Weir – Principal Accountant – Tel 643 8066

1.9 Background information:

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

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

2.2 Legal

The Authority has a duty to ensure that it produces an Annual Statement of Accounts by 1 August 2021 in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

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

2.4 Human rights

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

2.5 Equalities and diversity

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

2.6 Risk management

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

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

2.8 Environment and sustainability

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