

# North Tyneside Council Report to Audit Committee Date: 23 March 2022

Title: Annual Statement of  
Accounts 2021/22

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**Report from Service:** Finance

**Report Author:** Janice Gillespie, Director of Resources (Tel: 643 5701)

**Wards affected:** All

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## 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 2021/22 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 2021/22 accounts.

### 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:

1.4.1 The Chief Finance Officer is required, no later than 31 July 2022, to sign and certify that the draft Statement of Accounts present a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position for the year ended 31 March 2022. For 2021/22 the aim is to produce a set of draft accounts by the end of May as the statutory deadline reverts back to the end of May for the 2022/23 accounts. The audited set of accounts is required, no later than 30 November 2022, to be approved and subsequently published.

#### **Update on the preparation of the 2021/22 Annual Statement of Accounts**

1.4.2 Communication has gone to all members of the Senior Leadership Team detailing the process for the closure of the 2021/22 accounts. This took the form of a briefing note which outlined the main tasks and actions required to be taken by services and reiterated the responsibilities of senior management in ensuring that all staff are fully aware of the deadlines associated with the closure of the 2021/22 accounts.

- 1.4.3 Detailed guidance notes have been published on the Authority's Intranet site outlining the key dates for the closure of the accounts. In addition, an article has been published in Teamwork from the Director of Resources reminding staff of the importance of meeting the final accounts deadlines.
- 1.4.4 As in 2020/21 group accounts will continue to be required for 2021/22 as the anticipated balance sheet value of the North Tyneside Trading Company (NTTC) will be material on the Authority's statutory accounts. This arises as the Authority is the main equity holder in the Company.
- 1.4.5 Guidance has been issued to schools on the areas that they need to focus on to ensure that they closedown on time. Training sessions with schools have also been held covering year-end requirements.
- 1.4.6 Regular meetings continue to be held with finance staff and valuation to address any issues that arise.
- 1.4.7 Work is progressing towards meeting the deadlines that are required in order for the Authority to be able to publish the draft Statement of Accounts by 31 May 2022. Currently we are not foreseeing any issues that will prevent the Authority achieving this date, however there is always the risk of unforeseen events that may impact on our ability to do so.

## **1.5 Decision options:**

- 1.5.1 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.

## **1.6 Reasons for recommended option:**

- 1.6.1 The Audit Committee is recommended to endorse the proposals set out in section 1.2 of this report as the production 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.

## **1.7 Appendices:**

None.

## **1.8 Contact officers:**

Janice Gillespie – Director of Resources - Tel: 643 5701

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

Peter Weir – Principal Accountant – Tel 643 8066

## **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 July 2022 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.