

Report to: **Audit and Governance Committee**

Date of Meeting: 24 September 2020

Public Document: Yes

Exemption: None

Review date for release None



Subject: **Statement of Accounts 2019/2020**

Purpose of report: The Council's Draft Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 is linked below to this covering report.

The draft accounts have been published along with the public inspection notice on the Council's website and are currently subject to external audit by the Council's appointed auditors Grant Thornton UK LLP in line with the amended regulation timetable as detailed in the report.

The Accounts will be presented back to Committee for approval once this work is complete, it is envisaged approval will be sought at the Committee's November meeting.

Recommendation: **To receive the draft 2019/20 Statement of Accounts and note the position on publishing the Accounts and audit opinion.**

Reason for recommendation: To provide an update on Statement of Accounts completion and present the Accounts for members understanding and questioning.

Officer: John Symes – Finance Manager, jsymes@eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio Holder: Portfolio Holder for Finance

Financial implications: Contained within the report

Legal implications: Any legal implications are identified in the report and no further comment is required.

Equalities impact: Low Impact

Climate change: Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk

Links to background information: [East Devon District Council 2019/20 Draft Accounts and Public Inspection Notice](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#): Outstanding Council and Council Services

1. Publication and Approval of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts

- 1.1 The process for preparing and publishing the Statement of Accounts is governed by The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The regulation covers the standard to which the accounts must be prepared, the approval and publication requirements and also the rights of public inspection.
- 1.2 The regulations have been amended for the 2019/20 financial year in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by delaying the statutory publication deadlines.
 - The publication date for final, audited, accounts has been moved from 31 July to the target date of 30 November 2020
 - For added flexibility the requirement for public inspection to include the first 10 days of June has been replaced with the requirement to run the 30 day public inspection period at any point, provided it begins before 1 September
 - This means the accounts must be confirmed by the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) and published by 31 August 2020
- 1.3 The Council's Unaudited Accounts were issued on 17th August 2020 and are published on the Council's website (link above) along with the Public Inspection Notice that covers the period 17 August 2020 to 28 September 2020.
- 1.4 The next requirement is for a member meeting, in our case the Audit and Governance Committee, to consider the Statement of Accounts and approve them. They are then signed and dated by the Chair of the Committee and reconfirmed by the Responsible Financial Officer. It is anticipated the Audited Accounts will be presented to the November committee.
- 1.5 In considering the Accounts, the Audit and Governance Committee receive a report from the External Auditor reporting on the work undertaken on significant risk areas, the financial statements and the control environment in place to support the production of timely and accurate financial statements. An Accounts opinion and Value for Money Arrangements opinion would be presented as part of the External Audit Report.
- 1.6 In line with the above amended timetable the target for publication of final audited accounts is 30 November 2020.