

Item 6 Statement of Accounts 2011/12

Report of the Head of Finance

Recommended:

- 1. Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report (Annex 1):**
 - a. That the matters raised in the report be considered before authorising the financial statements for issue,**
 - b. That the adjustments to the financial statements be noted,**
 - c. That the proposed audit opinion and value for money conclusion be noted.**
 - d. That the letter of representation be approved.**
- 2. That the audited Annual Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2011/12 (Annex 2) be approved.**

SUMMARY:

- The Council is required to prepare an Annual Statement of Accounts and have those accounts audited. This report presents the audited Annual Statement of Accounts for approval together with the Annual Governance Report of the Audit Commission.
- The Statement of Accounts is presented with an unqualified opinion; this means the auditors found no unadjusted material errors or misstatements in the accounts.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is required to produce and approve an Annual Statement of Accounts for each financial year.
- 1.2 The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012 have now been audited by the Audit Commission and the Annual Statement of Accounts, together with the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report are presented here for approval.

2 Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report

- 2.1 As part of their reporting process, the Audit Commission produce an Annual Governance Report (AGR). This is shown in Annex 1.

- 2.2 The AGR details findings in respect of the audit of the accounts and investigations into the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- 2.3 An unqualified opinion has been given in respect of both the Annual Statement of Accounts and the Council's value for money arrangements. This means that the auditors found no material areas of concern as part of their audit.

3 2011/12 Statement of Accounts

- 3.1 The accounts were prepared in accordance with statutory guidance and deadlines.
- 3.2 The Head of Finance approved the draft financial statements for audit on 27 June 2012. Following this the accounts were submitted to the Audit Commission along with relevant working papers in order that the audit could be carried out.
- 3.3 A small number of changes to the accounts have been agreed with the auditor as a result of the audit. These are explained in more detail in the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report shown in Annex 1. These changes are all relatively minor and none changed the Council's overall financial position from that shown in the statement approved by the Head of Finance.
- 3.4 Before approving the Annual Statement of Accounts Councillors should consider the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) shown at the end of the Statement of Accounts (Annex 2). Members should note that a footnote has been added to the AGS to clarify the role of the Chief Financial Officer. This was added at the request of the District Auditor and is the only change that has been made to the AGS since it was approved by Full Council on 4 July 2012.

4 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 4.1 The Statement of Accounts presented with this report is recommended to be approved by the General Purposes Committee as the Council's audited Statement of Accounts for 2011/12.
- 4.2 The Audit Commission has issued an unqualified opinion in respect of both the Annual Statement of Accounts and on the Council's ability to deliver value for money.
- 4.3 The reason for the recommendation is to comply with a statutory duty to approve the Council's audited Statement of Accounts by 30 September each year.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	2	File Ref:	
(Portfolio: Economic) Councillor Giddings			
Officer:	Carl Whatley	Ext:	8241
Report to:	General Purposes	Date:	26 September 2012