

BARNSELEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (S151 OFFICER)

TITLE: AUDITED 2022/23 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| REPORT TO: | Audit & Governance Committee |
| Date of Meeting | 15 th November 2023 |
| Cabinet Member Portfolio | Councillor Robert Frost |
| Key Decision | YES |
| Public or Private | Public |

Purpose of report

This report presents the Council's revised 2022/23 Statement of Accounts, following the statutory audit period.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- **The Audit & Governance Committee notes the revised 2022/23 Statement of Accounts following the statutory audit period (subject to any final amendments being made up to the issue of the final audit opinion) ;**
- **The Audit & Governance Committee notes the Council's Letter of Representation;**
- **The Audit & Governance Committee formally recommends approval of the audited statement of accounts & Letter of Representation to Full Council at the meeting on the 23rd November 2023.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has followed The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which sets out the requirements for the production and publication of its financial statements. The main requirement was that the Council should lodge a Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code) compliant set of accounts with the External Auditor by no later than 31st May.
- 1.2 Following publication of the Redmond Review a set of revised timescales have been implemented that both local authorities and external auditors have to comply with as a result of a significant proportion of the audits not meeting the existing statutory deadlines.
- 1.3 The statutory deadline for the publication of the draft (unaudited) statement of accounts by the authority was set at 31st May. The statutory deadline for completion of the external auditor's final opinion was set at 30th September.
- 1.4 The Council met its statutory obligation of lodging its draft statement of accounts with the External Auditor by the end of May 2022.

- 1.5 Members of the Committee will be aware that the External Auditors for 2022/23 are Grant Thornton. It is also worth noting that Grant Thornton have been awarded the contract to audit the Council's accounts for a further 5 years through to 2028/29.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 Members of the Committee will recall that the Council's Auditors, Grant Thornton, highlighted in the meeting held on the 26th July 2023 that given the current recruitment issues being experienced within Public Sector Auditing and the fact that two members of the team working on the Barnsley Audit had served notice to leave Grant Thornton, that they would not be able to meet the statutory deadline for 30th September but committed to meeting a revised deadline of 30th November 2023 (subject to their audit work being satisfactorily completed throughout the summer/autumn period).
- 2.2 The updated statement of accounts reflects the work carried out by the auditor and management throughout the summer and incorporates a number of amendments to draft accounts presented to the Committee in July. The revised set of accounts, complete with tracked changes from the draft set of accounts are attached at Appendix.
- 2.3 There remains a relatively low number of queries still outstanding, none of which are expected to impact on the Auditor's opinion on the accounts. The S151 Officer will ensure these amendments are reflected in the updated Statement of Accounts.
- 2.4 The ISA 260, which is the formal report from the Auditors to 'those charged with governance', is presented to Members of the Committee on this agenda for comment. Please note, this covering report is not intended to take Members through the ISA 260 Report.
- 2.5 Also, at Appendix 2, is the Council's Letter of Representation to the Auditors for Members' information.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 That following receipt of the Auditor ISA 260 Report, the Director of Finance (the Council's S151 Officer) submits the revised, audited 2022/23 Statement of Accounts to the Full Council meeting of the 23rd November 2023 for consideration and comment.

4. IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Authority's revised statutory financial statements for the financial year 2022/23 are attached at Appendix 1 to this report with 'tracked changes' to allow Members sight of the amendments being made as part of the audit process, since the draft accounts which were considered by Members in July.
- 4.2 **Risks** - There are no issues arising directly from this report.
- 4.3 **Legal** - There are no issues arising directly from this report.
- 4.4 **Equality** - There are no issues arising directly from this report.
- 4.5 **Sustainability** - There are no issues arising directly from this report.

4.6 **Employee** - There are no issues arising directly from this report.

4.7 **Communications** - There are no issues arising directly from this report.

5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in conjunction with all Executive Directors and Financial Services support staff. The audit process has been overseen by the Council's S151 Officer and the Audit Lead from Grant Thornton. External Audit expect to issue their opinion on the Council's accounts by the end of November / early December 2023.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 There are no alternative options to be considered

7. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 This report and appendices are required to be approved to the Council's Full Council on the 23rd November 2023.

8. **GLOSSARY**

CIPFA - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

9. **LIST OF APPENDICES**

9.1 Appendix 1 – Statement of Accounts 2022/23 – Tracked Changes

9.2 Appendix 2 – Letter of Representation 2022/23

10. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 Various closedown files, working papers and external audit schedules are available for inspection within the Finance Business Unit.

11. **REPORT SIGN OFF**

| | |
|--|--|
| Financial consultation & sign off | Neil Copley 8 th November 2023 |
| Legal consultation & sign off | |

Report Author: Neil Copley
Post: Service Director – Finance (S151 Officer)
Date: 8th November 2022