

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Statutory Statement of Accounts 2019/20
Meeting of:	Audit (Approval of the Statement of Accounts) Committee
Date:	9th September 2020
Is this an Executive Decision:	NO
Is this a Key Decision:	NO
Is the report Confidential:	NO
If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	[]

Essential Signatories:

ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE

Monitoring Officer: Angela Wakefield

Date Signature

Chief Finance Officer: Sal Khan

Date Signature

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Audit (Approval of the Statement of Accounts) Committee

Date: 9th September 2020

TITLE:	Statutory Statement of Accounts 2019/20
PORTFOLIO:	Leader/Finance
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Sal Khan
CONTACT OFFICER:	Lisa Turner, Chief Accountant ext. 1399
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To approve the Statutory Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 following the work undertaken by the Council's external auditors and scrutiny by the Audit Committee.
- 1.2 To approve the letter of representation on behalf of the authority.

2. Background

- 2.1 A report on the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee agenda summarised the main areas within the accounts. Overall the accounts presented within the Financial Statements show a healthy position. Through the adoption of proper accounting practices and the ongoing identification of, and actions to mitigate against, financial risks this provides a crucial foundation for the Council to be able to achieve its objectives.
- 2.2 Whilst the external auditors have concluded the vast majority of their work on the accounts, we have been advised that assurance from Staffordshire County Council's external auditors in relation to the Staffordshire Pension Fund is not yet available. For this reason it is proposed to delegate authority to the Chairman to sign the accounts once this assurance is provided and the audit can be concluded. Members of the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee will be advised of any significant changes at the earliest available opportunity.

3. Contribution to Corporate Priorities

- 3.1 The financial statements underpin all corporate priorities by demonstrating a healthy financial position, providing a strong foundation to enable the authority to meet its objectives.

4. Approval of Statement of Accounts and Letter of Representation

- 4.1 Immediately prior to the meeting of this Committee, the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee will have considered the Statutory Statement of Accounts and the Letter of Representation.
- 4.2 The reasons for the recommendations in this report are set out in the report to the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee.
- 4.3 The recommendations of the Scrutiny (Audit and Value for Money Council Services) Committee will be reported to this Committee orally at the meeting.

5. Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of Financial Management Unit: Lisa Turner.

- 5.1 This report relates solely to the authorities financial position and activities during 2019/20.

6. Risk Assessment and Management

- 6.1 The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows.

6.2 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):

6.2.1 The Council is committed to the efficiency agenda and has established a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). These accounts reflect a robust financial position which supports the organisation in meeting its objectives going forward.

6.3 Negative (Threats)

6.3.1 Inadequate or incorrect financial reporting may result in misrepresentation of the Council's financial position and impact on the underlying financial position.

7. Legal Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team: Linda Durham.

7.1 There are no significant legal issues arising from this report.

8. Equality and Health

8.1 **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

8.2 **Health impacts:** The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed.

9. Human Rights

9.1 There are no Human Rights issues arising from this report.

10. Sustainability (including climate change & change adaptation measures)

10.1 Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) No

11. Recommendation(s)

11.1 The Statutory Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 and letter of representation, as appended to this report, be approved subject to any adjustments that may be necessary following the conclusion of the external auditors work and authority be delegated to the Chair to sign the accounts accordingly.

12. Appendices

12.1 Appendix A: Statutory Statement of Accounts 2019/20.

12.2 Appendix B: Letter of Representation 2019/20.

