

South Northamptonshire Council

Audit Committee

19 September 2019

Draft Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 and Letter of Representation
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Report of the Executive Director, Finance

This report is public

Purpose of report

To receive a report is to ask members to consider the following:

- The Draft Statement of Accounts 2018/19.
- Annual Governance Statement 2018/19.
- Draft Letter of Representation 2018/19.

These are draft at this stage and the Committee is asked to delegate authority to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee for final approval.

1.0 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:

- 1.1 To endorse the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19.
- 1.2 To delegate to the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of Audit Committee authority to approve and sign, once finalised:
 - The Statement of Accounts 2018/19
 - The Letter of Representation 2018/19

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with all relevant statutory reporting requirements.
- 2.2 The statutory timescale requires the Statement of Accounts to be approved by the S151 Officer and received by the Council's External Auditor, Ernst & Young (EY) by 31 May 2019. The External Auditor is then required to provide their opinion by 31 July 2018. Unfortunately, due to EY's resource constraints their audit was delayed until August. The finalisation of the audit has been further held up by delays in

receiving assurance from the Northamptonshire Pension Fund as a result of Northamptonshire County Council's accounts for 2017/18 not yet being signed off by KPMG.

- 2.3 The Annual Governance Statement sets out the assurance framework in place across the Council and an assessment of this during 2018/19.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The Statement of Accounts set out the financial performance of the Council during 2018/19 and provides useful information for the public and stakeholders to identify how the Council has managed public resources across the district.
- 3.2 The Annual Governance Statement is part of the CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework. It is a wide ranging document that is governance focussed and must be considered and "owned" corporately.
- 3.3 The Annual Governance Statement describes our governance arrangements and assesses how closely we align with good practice. In overall terms this is a positive statement for the financial year 2018/19.
- 3.5 The Annual Governance Statement takes assurance from several mechanisms including the internal audit work, internal audit reports throughout the year, the work of the Audit Committee, the scrutiny process and external audit.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in a timely manner and in accordance with statutory requirements. The Annual Governance Statement provides assurance on the Governance Framework in place across the Council.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 None

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:
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Legal Implications

7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:
Andrew Hunkin, Executive Director (Resources), 03000 030302
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Risk Management Implications

7.3 There are no risk implications arising directly from any outcome of this report.

Comments checked by:
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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All wards are affected

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All corporate plan themes.

Lead Councillor

None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Draft Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2018/19
Appendix 2	Draft Letter of Representation
Background Papers	
None	
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