

Report sponsor: Simon Riley, Strategic Director
of Corporate Resources
Report author: Peter Shillcock, Group
Accountant

Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020

Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Audit and Accounts Committee with the audited Financial Statements of the Council in respect of the year ended 31 March 2020.
- 1.2 The Financial Statements should be read in conjunction with the findings of Ernst and Young (External Auditor) as stated in their ISA 260 letter also included on this agenda.

Recommendation

- 2.1 To approve the audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 – subject to outcome of Derbyshire County Council pension audit.
- 2.2 To delegate authority for the final approval of the Financial Statements to the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources subject to satisfactory pension audit.

Reason

- 3.1 The Audit and Accounts Committee is the delegated Committee to approve the audited financial statements on behalf of Council.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Prior to Covid-19, the statutory deadline for publication of the draft Financial Statements was 31 May whilst the final audited Financial Statements was 31 July. However, on the 16th March the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) announced these deadlines would be extended due to the growing impact of Covid-19.
- 4.2 On 22nd April it was confirmed by MHCLG that the draft version should be published by the first working day of September 2020 whilst the final audited version should be published by 30 November 2020.

- 4.3 Despite the changes to working arrangements and all the challenges that brought, the Council's draft Financial Statements were still produced by 31 May 2020 and presented to the Director of Financial Services. However, the actual publication date was delayed until 31 July 2020 to enable further review in respect of Covid 19 and other disclosures. The actual publication date was still a full month ahead of the revised date of the first working day of September.
- 4.4 Due to Covid-19 the audit of this year's accounts has been unusual, in that all meetings with Ernst and Young have been done remotely. Despite this, the Finance team and Ernst and Young have been able to deliver the accounts to this committee a full 2 months in advance of the revised statutory deadline of 30 November.
- 4.5 At the time of drafting this report the audit is still on-going and the final list of changes is not yet complete. It is proposed to table the amendments at the Audit and Accounts Committee on 30 September 2020 and to provide explanations to members as appropriate.
- 4.6 The audit of the Derbyshire Pension Fund is yet to be completed. As a result, Ernst and Young cannot complete their work on our pension fund notes within the Financial Statements. The audit opinion will therefore be subject to this work being completed.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 None directly arising

Other options

- 6.1 None as the Council has a statutory responsibility to publish its audited accounts each year and responsibility for this is delegated to the Audit and Accounts Committee.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 As detailed in the report

Legal implications

- 8.1 None arising from this report

Other significant implications

- 9.1 None arising from this report

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Emily Feenan, Director of Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services	21/09/20
Finance	Toni Nash, Head of Corporate Finance	21/09/20
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Simon Riley, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources	21/09/20
Other(s)		

Background papers:

List of appendices: