



## **REPORT of DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

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**to  
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE  
26 NOVEMBER 2020**

### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/20**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To report to the Committee the latest position on the external audit of the statement of accounts and present the draft Statement of Accounts for 2019/20, which includes the Annual Governance Statement, (subject to audit) at **APPENDIX 1** that are the subject of ongoing external audit work.

The Council's external auditor is Deloitte LLP and the financial year ended 31 March 2020 (2019/20) is their second year as the appointed external auditor.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- (i) That delegated authority is given to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Performance, Governance and Audit Committee for the final approval of the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20, including the Annual Governance Statement, and letter of representation.

#### **3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The content of the Statement of Accounts is determined by statutory requirements and mandatory professional standards as set out within The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (The Code) and the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as applicable to local authorities.
- 3.2 There is a requirement to publish the approved and audited Statement of Accounts by 30 November 2020 this year or an explanation of why this has not been possible. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 allow for the publication to be "as soon as reasonably practicable after the receipt of any report from the auditor which contains the auditor's final findings from the audit which is issued before the conclusion of the audit". The Committee should note that there is a separate report on the agenda titled 'ISA 260 Report of the External Auditor on the Audit for the year ended 31 March 2020' which is the report of the findings of the external auditor.
- 3.3 At the time of writing this report, audit work is ongoing and it is hoped that approval can be given by the Committee on the Statement of Accounts at this meeting, however, if this is not possible, then it is recommended that delegated authority is given to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Chairman of the

Committee to approve the final audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20 and the letter of representation that will be requested by the external auditor.

- 3.4 The Statement of Accounts includes the Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The AGS was approved by the Committee on 30 July 2020. The external auditors have since recommended a conclusion is added to the AGS and this has been done and is included in **APPENDIX 1**.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Based on the work that Deloitte LLP has substantially completed, no significant issues with the Council's accounts for 2019/20 have been identified. The findings of the auditors are set out in the separate report on the agenda for this meeting titled 'ISA 260 Report of the External Auditor on the Audit for the year ended 31 March 2020.

#### **5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES**

- 5.1 Financial resources are a key factor in ensuring the deliver of the strategic themes.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None directly.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None directly.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None directly.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial and human)** – None directly.
- (v) **Impact on the Environment** – None directly.
- (vi) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – None directly.

Enquiries to: Chris Leslie, Director of Resources  
email [chris.leslie@maldon.gov.uk](mailto:chris.leslie@maldon.gov.uk)