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<b>Date</b>	29th June 2017

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Statement of Accounts 2016/17</b>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p><b>That the Audit Committee notes the attached Annexe, being the Council’s Draft Statement of Accounts 2016/17 and Annual Governance Statement, to be submitted to the Auditors, Grant Thornton, by 30 June 2017.</b></p> <p><b>That the Audit Committee notes the update from the External Auditors, Grant Thornton</b></p>	

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The attached Annex A presents the draft Statement of Accounts 2016/17 to be presented to the Council’s Auditors, Grant Thornton, on 30 June 2017. In the view of the Chief Financial Officer (s151 Officer), the Statements presents a “true and fair view” of the Council’s financial position as at 31 March 2017.
- 1.2 It is the statutory responsibility of the s151 Officer, as set out in the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2011, to sign the draft accounts before 30<sup>th</sup> June and certify that they present a true and fair view of the Authority’s financial position. Best practice dictates that this is shared with members of the Audit Committee, enabling the Committee to have sight of the first draft before the External Auditor’s review. An informal meeting of the Audit Committee was held on 12<sup>th</sup> June to consider the first draft of the Accounts. The Regulations then prescribe that the Accounts, alongside the Auditor’s opinion and report, return to the Committee for consideration and approval before 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- 1.3 This report contains two appendices:
- Appendix A – **Statement of Accounts 2016/17, including the Annual Governance Statement.**
- Appendix B – **External Auditor’s Progress Report and Update** for the Committee.

## **2. What happens next**

- 2.1 The Chief Financial Officer signs the Statement of Accounts before submission to the External Auditor on 30 June. The Annual Governance Statement has already been signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.
- 2.2 The accounts will remain in draft form until they are signed off by the Audit Committee in September following audit and receipt of the Auditor's opinion. Any errors, inconsistencies or omissions discovered during the audit will be identified in the Auditor's Report following completion of the audit.
- 2.3 It is a legal requirement for the Statement of Accounts to be made available for public inspection for a statutory period over the summer. The Council residents may exercise their right to question the Auditor on the Accounts or make objections to them. The Accounts shall not be altered after the date on which they are first made available for inspection except with the Auditor's consent.
- 2.4 The Chief Financial Officer is then required to prepare, sign, date and re-certify the presentation of the final Statement of Accounts before the Audit Committee approves them in September.

## **3. Corporate Implications**

### **3.1 Legal Implications**

The Chief Financial Officer, under the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2011, is required to authorise and issue draft, unaudited Accounts by the statutory deadline of 30 June. Following audit, the Audit Committee, delegated by the Council, is required to sign off the final audited accounts and publish them on the Council's website.

### **3.2 Financial and Risk Implications**

Finance implications are contained within the report and Accounts.

### **3.3 Equalities Implications**

There are no equalities implications as a direct consequence of this report.

### **3.4 Employment Issues**

There are no employment implications in this report.

### **3.5 Sustainability Issues**

There are no sustainability implications in this report.

### **3.6 Consultation**

There is a statutory requirement to publish the Statement of Accounts, to make the Accounts and background papers available for inspection and to advertise their availability and contact details of the External Auditor.