

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	23 July 2024
Title of Report:	Final Statement of Accounts 2019/20 & 2020/21
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Northey (Service Director for Finance)
Author:	Carolyn Haynes
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Your Reference:	SoA 19/20 & 2020/21/Audit July 2024
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

Members formally approved the draft Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 on the 30 November 2020 and the draft Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 on the 11 October 2021.

The Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 and 2020/21 have now been audited by our external auditors and are being presented to Audit & Governance Committee for approval.

The revised Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 is attached as Appendix A and the revised Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 is attached as Appendix B.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. To **approve** the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 attached as Appendix A and the Statement of Accounts for 2020-21 attached as Appendix B.
 - a. Reason: Statutory Requirement, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the accounts to be:
 - i. Considered by committee;
 - ii. Approved by committee resolution;
 - iii. Signed and dated by the person presiding at the committee.
2. To **note** the amendments made to the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 and 2020/21 as agreed with the Auditor and reported in their Audit Findings Reports for 2019/20 and 2020/21.
3. The Letter of Representation attached as Appendix C is authorised and submitted to the Auditor.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. None – It is a statutory requirement to produce and approve the Statement of Accounts.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Council's expenditure forms the basis on which the Corporate Plan can be delivered.

Implications for the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The changes actioned in both these sets of accounts will flow into the opening balance sheet position for 2023/24 Statement of Accounts and will have implications on the Medium-Term Financial Plan. The level of Working Balance and reserves will affect the level of funding available in future years and variations in service expenditure will also need to be reviewed to assess the effects.

Financial Risks

The Statement of Accounts includes a high-level summary of the Council's financial risks.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

N/A

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

N/A

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20							
B	Audited Statement of Accounts 2020/21							
C	Letters of Representation for 2019/20 & 2020/21							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Northey

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 11/07/2024

Cabinet Member approval: *approved by email*

Date approved: 12/07/2024

Final Statement of Accounts 2019/20 and 2020/21

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The draft Statement of Accounts 2019/20 were approved by the Service Director for Finance on the 31 August 2020 and the draft Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 were approved by the Service Director for Finance on the 31 July 2021.
- 1.2 The Statement of Accounts have now been amended and the Final Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 and 2020/21 are being presented to the Committee for approval prior to publication on the Council's website.

2. Background to the Delay in Final Publication of the 2019/20 & 2020/21 Accounts

- 2.1 For a wide range of reasons, there has been a significant national backlog in the publication of audited accounts in local government. The government is keen to resolve this national issue and had recently launched a consultation to clear the backlog by setting a series of statutory backstop dates up to 2027/28.
- 2.2 For Plymouth, our 2019/20 accounts have been the subject of on-going discussions around a pension transaction and the need for a resolution to allow the 2019/20 and 2020/21 accounts to be signed off by the auditors came to more prominence at the end of June 2023. Our external auditors required the accounting treatment to be reclassified as revenue, it was previously presented as capital. Further information is shown in the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20.

3. Changes from draft publication of the 2019/20 draft Accounts

- 3.1 The GT Audit Findings Report for 2019/20 was presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on the 29 September 2022. This identified a few required technical adjustments. The Final Statement of Accounts 2019/20 are attached as Appendix A.

4. Changes from draft publication of the 2020/21 draft Accounts

- 4.1 The GT Audit Findings Report for 2020/21 is included on the agenda for today's meeting (23 July 2024). This details the corrections and adjustments that have been made to the Statement of Accounts 2020/21. The Final Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 are attached as Appendix B.