

**SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE – 28 NOVEMBER 2023**

**(PROVISIONAL) APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND S151 OFFICER AND FINANCE MANAGER AND  
DEPUTY S151 OFFICER**

**PART A – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The Council's draft Statement of Accounts, as published on its website in June 2023 has been completed for audit by Grant Thornton, excepting only confirmation that the specific audit of the Staffordshire Pension Fund (conducted by Ernst and Young) has been finalised.
- 1.2 In lieu of completion of the Staffordshire Pension Fund, it is recommended that Audit and Risk Committee delegate authority to the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee, alongside the S151 officer to sign approval of the final accounts upon notification of completion of the Staffordshire Pension Fund audit without amendment to the Statement of Accounts appended to this report.
- 1.3 The Audit and Risk Committee reserve the right to receive for approval an amended Statement of Accounts if required by the conclusion of the audit of the Staffordshire Pension Fund.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Audit and Risk Committee note the Statement of Accounts appended to this report including the Audit Report contained within.
- 2.2 Audit and Risk Committee note that the audit of the Staffordshire Pensions Fund, which is conducted separately by Ernst and Young is yet to be finalised.
- 2.3 Audit and Risk Committee authorise the Chairman of Audit and Risk Committee, alongside the S151 officer to formally sign the Statement of Accounts upon notification that the Pension Fund audit has been completed with no requirement to amend the Statement of Accounts as appended to this report and notify the Committee accordingly.
- 2.4 In the event that the conclusion of the Pensions Fund audit requires amendment to the Statement of Accounts as appended, the revised Statement of Accounts shall be brought to a subsequent meeting of Audit and Risk Committee for formal approval.

### 3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	The prompt publication, audit and approval of the Statement of Accounts for each financial year is integral to the financial stability delivery arm within the Council Plan.
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	No	The approval of the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 does not impact on equalities.
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	No (Council decision)	
KEY DECISION	No (Council decision)	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	November 2023	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	Yes	The audited Statement of Accounts details the financial impact of all recorded expenditure and income for the 2022/23 financial year.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Regulation 9 of the Audit and Accounts Regulations (2015) requires that the statement of accounts should be signed and dated by the member presiding at the meeting at which approval is given. It also requires authorities to publish the Statement of Accounts with any certificate or report issued by the auditor. Both approval and publication is required to take place no later than 30 September in the relevant financial year or as soon as reasonably practicable after the receipt of the auditor's final findings (if later).
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	None applicable
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

### **PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Council published its draft Statement of Accounts for public inspection on its website in June 2023. Since that date, Grant Thornton have undertaken the annual external audit of the draft accounts.
- 4.2 The audit has been completed, excepting the audit of the Staffordshire Pension Fund which is undertaken separately by Ernst and Young. Amongst other impacts, South Staffordshire Council's Balance Sheet includes its share of Assets and Liabilities relating to the Staffordshire Pension Fund.
- 4.3 It is not expected that the conclusion of the audit of the Pension Fund will lead to any changes to the Statement of Accounts presented as an Appendix to this report. However, the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee and S151 Officer are unable to formally sign off the accounts until such time as all aspects of audit have been satisfactorily completed, including the Pension Fund audit.

- 4.4 The Audit and Risk Committee has the authority to note the Statement of Accounts presented subject to conclusion of the Pensions Audit. The Committee is also able to approve delegated authority to the Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee to formally sign approval of the Statement of Accounts as and when assurance is received that the audit of the Pension Fund is completed and that no amendments are required further to this conclusion.
- 4.5 Audit and Risk Committee can reserve the right to receive a revised Statement of Accounts for formal approval at Committee in the event that conclusion of the Pension Audit necessitates any amendment to the Statement of Accounts presented as an Appendix to this report.

**5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- 5.1 None identified

**6. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 6.1 Not Applicable

**7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Statement of Accounts 2022/23

Report by:

John Mayhew, Finance Team Manager and Deputy Section 151 Officer  
Rebecca Maher, Finance Director and S151 Officer