

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director of Support Services
to
Audit Committee
on
24 September 2014

Report prepared by: Ian Ambrose
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Statutory Statement of Accounts 2013/14

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1 Purpose of Report

To adopt the Statement of Accounts 2013/14

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That following due consideration, that the Statement of Accounts 2013/14 be adopted and approved for publication.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require that an Authority's Annual Statement of Accounts be formally adopted six months after the end of the financial year; that is by the end of September, having been previously submitted to External Audit by the Chief Finance Officer by the end of June.
- 3.2 Adoption of the Accounts can only be undertaken by the Council as a whole, or a Council Committee to which the function has been delegated. At Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, the Audit Committee has the delegated power to adopt the Accounts. In adopting the accounts, Audit Committee need to satisfy themselves that the process of drawing up the accounts is robust, and that all relevant guidance and standards have been satisfactorily followed: It is not the role of Audit Committee to pass comment on the financial outturn of the Authority per se, rather to ensure it is accurately reported.
- 3.3 Before adopting the Statement of Accounts 2013/14, Members need to understand how the structure of the accounts works. Appendix 1 guides Members through the various statements and the accompanying notes, drawing Members attention to any significant variances or changes year on year. The appendix therefore serves as an aid to Members' robust scrutiny of the Accounts prior to their adoption.

3.4 Members will also be mindful of the findings of the Council's external auditors BDO regarding the Accounts, as contained within their report elsewhere on this agenda. In particular Members will note that the auditor is anticipating issuing an unqualified opinion on the financial statements and on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (value for money) conclusion.

3.5 The Statement of Accounts is attached at Appendix 2. After due consideration, Members are invited to adopt them.

4 Next Steps

4.1 Following adoption, the Statement of Accounts will be formally published by 30 September.

5 Corporate Implications

5.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Critical Priorities

The accuracy, format and content of the Statement of Accounts are key determinants in maintaining the Council's reputation for financial probity and financial stewardship

5.2 Financial Implications

The Statement of Accounts is required to present a true and fair picture of the Council's financial position at 31 March 2014 and also the income and expenditure for the financial year.

5.3 Legal Implications

The Statement of Accounts is a statutory document required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations issued by the Secretary of State

5.4 People Implications

There are no people implications arising from this report

5.5 Property Implications

There are no property implications arising from this report

5.6 Consultation

There are no consultation implications arising from this report

5.7 Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no equalities implications arising from this report

5.8 Risk Assessment

There are no risk implications arising from this report

5.9 Value for Money

There are no value for money implications arising from this report

5.10 Community Safety Implications

There are no community safety implications arising from this report

5.11 Environmental Impact
There are no environmental implications arising from this report

6 Background Papers
Detailed working papers are held by Accountancy

7 Appendices

Appendix 1 Overview of the Statutory Statement of Accounts 2013/14

Appendix 2 Statutory Statement of Accounts 2013/14