

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services
to
Audit Committee
on
21 September 2016

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Agenda
Item No.

Statutory Statement of Accounts 2015/16

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1 Purpose of Report

To adopt the Statement of Accounts 2015/16

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That following due consideration, that the Statement of Accounts 2015/16 be adopted and approved for publication.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require that an Authority's Annual Statement of Accounts be formally adopted 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 2015/16, 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 on the Council's website.

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 2016 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 2015/16

Appendix 2 Statutory Statement of Accounts 2015/16