

## **Statement of Accounts 2019/20**

The Statement of Accounts are the formal accounts of the Council. Their purpose is to inform you of the finances of the Council.

The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) Amendments Regulations 2020 extend the statutory deadlines for 2019/20 for all local authorities.

### ***Changes to financial reporting deadlines for 2019/20***

In response to an unprecedented situation relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to reduce the immediate pressure on councils and auditors to meet statutory audit deadlines, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 have been amended to allow the publication of the Statement of Accounts and the Public Inspection of the Accounts to be delayed.

### **Draft Accounts**

The unaudited Statement of Accounts will be published on the Council's website no later than 31st August 2020.

### **Public Inspection**

To give local authorities more flexibility, the requirement for the Public Inspection period to include the first 10 working days of June has been removed. Instead, local authorities must commence the Public Inspection period on or before the first working day of September 2020.

The commencement of Public Inspection will be published on the Council's website.

### **Audited Accounts**

The publication date for audited Accounts has moved from 31st July to 30th November 2020 for all local authority bodies.

### **Update on Audited Accounts 08/04/21**

Due to resourcing pressures – experienced by both the external auditors and the internal Finance team, and as reported to the Audit and Governance Committee on 22nd March 2021 – there has been a delay in the completion of the audit and subsequent publication of the audited Accounts for 2019/20. The Finance team are currently working with the external auditors to resolve the final outstanding issues; it is anticipated that the audited Accounts will be published in May 2021.