
2020/21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Committee: Audit Committee

Date: 22nd November 2021

Author: Finance Manager & Section 151 Officer

[W105]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 To approve the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts as set out in Appendix 1 be approved subject to the Finance Manager & Section 151 Officer, in conjunction with Ernst & Young (EY) and Chairman of Committee, being authorised to make any final non-material changes, as required, this prior to final sign-off by EY on or around the 30th November 2021.

3.0 **BACKGROUND / OPTIONS**

3.1 The Audit and Accounts Regulations 2015 (as amended) which apply to the preparation, approval and audit of the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 required the following:

- The draft Accounts must be certified by the Council's Responsible Financial Officer (Section 151 Officer) by 31st July following the end of the financial year. It is confirmed that the accounts were signed off by this statutory deadline, being signed and loaded onto the Council's website on the 23rd July 2021.
- The draft accounts and any associated financial documentation are made available for public inspection for a period of 30 working days. The accounts were available for public inspection from the 26th July to the 5th September 2021, but during this period neither the Council nor EY received any communications from the public.
- By the 30th September:
 - The Accounts must be re-certified by the Responsible Financial Officer
 - The Accounts must be approved by Members
 - The Accounts must be published together with any certificate, opinion or report issued by the appointed auditor.

3.2 In order to manage the workload of auditing a large number of local authorities across the East of England, EY informed the Finance & Assets Committee on

the 25th March 2021, that they would not undertake the audit of the East Cambs Accounts until October and November 2021, with a proposed sign-off by the end of November. We continue to work towards this deadline.

3.3 Under the Council's Constitution, it is the Audit Committee's function to approve the Statement of Accounts 2020/21.

4.0 FORMAT OF THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2020/21

4.1 The format of the Statement of Accounts is prescribed by a range of regulations and reporting requirements together with a code of practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

4.2 Since 2010/11, as part of the wider public sector move towards international accounting standards, all local authorities in the UK are required to produce their annual financial statements using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

5.0 CHANGES SINCE THE DRAFT ACCOUNTS

5.1 Members will note that EY identified a number of issues during the course of their audit, predominantly in relation to Balance Sheet entries. These are detailed in the Audit Differences section of their Audit Results Report, as discussed previously on the agenda.

5.2 The version of the Accounts attached as appendix 1 to this report includes all the adjustments we have agreed to make as identified in the Audit Results Report.

5.3 However, as Members would have also noted from the Audit Results Report, EY had not finished their review of the Statement at the point of drafting their report, and as such, appendix 1 potentially remains subject to further Audit review and change if further issues are identified. As detailed in the recommendation, these will be discussed by EY, the Finance Manager and Chair of Committee and only brought back to Committee for further discussion if felt material.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 This report presents details of the Council's financial position for the year ended 31st March 2021 in the prescribed format.

6.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.3 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) not required.

7.0 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Statement of Accounts 2020/21

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 (The Code).	Room 104 The Grange Ely	Ian Smith Finance Manager & Section 151 Officer Telephone: (01353) 616470 E-mail: ian.smith@eastcambs.gov.uk
The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities published by CIPFA		
Final Accounts working papers.		