

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 29th September 2016
Report of: Chief Operating Officer
Subject/Title: 2015-16 Statement of Accounts
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Peter Groves

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The 2015/16 Statement of Accounts provides information on the financial assets and transactions and of the Cheshire East Group for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016. The Group is a complex organisation that provides c.500 different services to over 370,000 residents, with an annual value of transactions in excess of £700m.
- 1.2 At the Audit & Governance Committee meeting of 30th June 2016 Members received a report setting out the key elements of the Council's pre-audit Statement of Accounts for 2015/16. The external audit of these Accounts is now complete and the external auditors, Grant Thornton anticipate providing an unqualified opinion.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That members receive the report and note the changes to the draft Accounts in accordance with the Audit Findings Report.
- 2.2 That the Chairman of Audit and Governance Committee be given delegated authority to sign off the final Accounts on behalf of the Committee.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To ensure compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 None.

7.0 Implications for Rural Communities

7.1 None

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 As covered in the report.

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 There are no specific legal implications with regard to this report.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The Local Government Act 2003 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 require the Statement of Accounts to be produced in line with recommended accounting practices.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 The following amendments have been agreed and reflected in the final Statement of Accounts.

- Changes to the NDR provision for appeals, where an error in calculation caused the estimate for the collection fund as a whole to be understated by £3.6m. This amendment affected the collection fund, all the primary statements and several supporting notes. Further details are provided in the Audit Finding report page 22.
- A number of adjustments were made to improve the presentation of the financial statements. Further details are provided in the Audit Finding report pages 24-25.

11.2 The amendments affect earmarked reserves only, there is no change to the general fund reserve of £13.0m reported in June.

12.0 Next Steps

12.1 The final version of the Statement of Accounts will be published on the Cheshire East website before the statutory deadline of 30th September following receipt of the necessary approvals.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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