

Report to Accounts, Audit and Governance Committee

13th September 2016

By the Director of Corporate Resources

DECISION REQUIRED



**Horsham
District
Council**

Not Exempt

Statement of Accounts 2015 /16

Executive summary

It is a legal requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 that the Statement of Accounts is approved by a resolution of the Council or the relevant Committee of the Council by 30th September. The Scheme of Delegation to Committees within the Council constitution (Part 3C Part 2.1) delegates the responsibility the Accounts, Audit and Governance Committee to consider and approve the Council's statement of accounts.

The accounts have been subject to external audit by Ernst and Young LLP and the Audit Results Report is also on the agenda for this meeting.

Recommendations

That the Committee is recommended:

- i) To approve the 2015/16 Statement of Accounts

Reasons for recommendations

- i) It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 that the Statement of Accounts are approved by 30th September.
- ii) The external auditors plan to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements for 2015/16.

Background papers: Consultation with the external auditors

Wards affected: All

Contact: Emma Thomas, Corporate Accountant, extension 2312

Background Information

1 Introduction

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 that the statutory Statement of Accounts is approved by a resolution of the Council or the relevant Committee of the Council by 30th September. Under The Scheme of Delegation to Committees within Part 3C of the Council constitution, the matter of considering and approving the statement of accounts has been delegated to the Accounts, Audit and Governance Committee. This report provides background information to the financial statements.

2 Background

- 2.1 The financial statements have been prepared following the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2015/16 which are based on International Financial Reporting Standards. The accounts have been subject to audit by Ernst and Young LLP who intend to issue an unqualified opinion.

3 Details

- 3.1 The Statement of Accounts 2015/16 are attached to this report.
- 3.2 Financial and other specific issues are dealt with under separate headings.

4 Next steps

- 4.1 The committee is asked to approve the Statement of Accounts 2015/16.

5 Outcome of consultations

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6 Other courses of action considered but rejected

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7 Resource consequences

- 7.1 There are no direct resource consequences arising from this report.

8 Legal consequences

- 8.1 There are no legal consequences arising from this report.

9 Risk assessment

- 9.1 There are reputational risks to the Council if the accounts are not approved by the statutory deadline of 30th September

10 Other considerations

- 10.1 The recommended actions of this report have no impact on Crime & Disorder; Human Rights or Equality & Diversity and Sustainability.