

Report to Audit Committee

12 July 2018

By the Director of Corporate Resources

DECISION REQUIRED



**Horsham
District
Council**

Not Exempt

Statement of Accounts 2017/18

Executive summary

It is a legal requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2017 that the Statement of Accounts is approved by a resolution of the Council or the relevant Committee of the Council by 31 July 2018. The Scheme of Delegation to Committees within the Council constitution (Part 3.2) delegates the responsibility to the Audit Committee to consider and approve the Council's Statement of Accounts.

The Statement of 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 2017/18 Statement of Accounts

Reasons for recommendations

- i) It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2017 that the Statement of Accounts are approved by 31 July 2018.
- ii) The external auditors plan to issue an unqualified audit opinion on the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18.

Background papers: none

Wards affected: All

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Background Information

1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2017 that the statutory Statement of Accounts are approved by a resolution of the Council or the relevant Committee of the Council by 31 July 2018. Under The Scheme of Delegation to Committees within Part 3.2 of the Council constitution, the matter of considering and approving the Statement of Accounts has been delegated to the Audit Committee. This report provides background information to the financial statements.
- 1.2 The Statement of Accounts have been prepared following the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2017/18 which are based on International Financial Reporting Standards. The Statement of Accounts have been subject to audit by Ernst and Young LLP who intend to issue an unqualified opinion.

2 Relevant Council policy

- 2.1 The Council is required to produce financial statements under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2017.

3 Details

- 3.1 The audit identified five amendments in the draft financial statements which have been adjusted in the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 that are attached to this report. The audit results report sets out the significant issues to bring to your attention.
- 3.2 The number of amendments is higher than previous years, but is not significant in number in the context of a new financial system during the year and being without a systems accountant for key periods. The Finance team has also reduced in size.

4 Next steps

- 4.1 The committee is asked to approve the Statement of Accounts 2017/18.

5 Outcome of consultations

- 5.1 No consultations were required. Audit Committee Members were briefed on the updated Statement of Accounts on 26 June 2018.

6 Other courses of action considered but rejected

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7 Resource and legal consequences

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

8 Risk assessment

- 8.1 There are reputational risks to the Council if the Statement of Accounts are not approved by the statutory deadline of 31 July 2018.

9 Other considerations

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