



# Report to Audit and Governance Committee

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**Title:** 2020/21 Accounts Update

**Relevant councillor(s):** N/A

**Author and/or contact officer:** David Skinner (S151)

**Ward(s) affected:** Not applicable

**Recommendations:** Members are requested to note the update on the audit of 2020/21 Accounts

**Reason for decision:** Not applicable

## Executive summary

1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on the audit of 2020/21 as summarised below: -

- i. Council – An approach on the working papers and testing has been agreed between the Council and the audit team and sample testing has commenced as detailed in paragraphs 1.2 to 1.6.
- ii. Pension Fund – Both years audit 2020/21 and 2021/22 is nearing completion with the anticipated close by end of March 23.
- iii. Housing Benefit – the 2020/21 audit will be completed by end of March 23 and the work on 2021/22 will commence in April 23.

## Council Audit 2020/21

1.2 The officers and the audit team have been working together over the past few weeks and have now agreed the approach and the format of the working papers for the 6 balances where the issue around significant absolute values were reported to the Committee in February. These six areas are: Short Term Receivables, Long Term Debtors, Short Term Creditors, Long Term Creditors, Fees and Charges and Operating Expenditure.

1.3 The working papers as per the agreed approach for Long-Term Creditors and Long-Term Debtors were submitted to the auditor last week. The audit team are currently reviewing these working papers and has started selecting the samples for testing, covering three main areas: limited testing on opening balance; in-year transactions and limited testing on the cleansed data.

1.4 It has been agreed that the further two areas will be submitted by mid-April, so the auditors can select sample before they move on to do the National Health Service audit in May. The remaining two areas will be submitted by the end of June for when the auditors resume the Council's audit in July.

1.5 It is anticipated that the auditors will focus on Long-Term Creditors, Long-Term Debtors, Fees & Charges and Other Operating Expenditure during April. All the remaining audit work on the other areas where review is pending and further work on Property, Plant and Equipment, Cash and Bank, Investment Properties, Provisions, Government Grants, Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates, Disposal of Assets, and other areas of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement will be done during the July visit.

1.6 The auditors are working on a detailed plan for completion and will be submitted by the end of March. At this stage it is anticipated that the audit for 2020/21 will be completed by the end of December 2023.

### **Other options considered**

1.7 Not applicable

### **Legal and financial implications**

1.8 Not directly related to this report.

### **Corporate implications**

1.9 Not applicable

### **Consultation and communication**

1.10 Not applicable

### **Next steps and review**

1.11 Not applicable

### **Background papers**

1.12 Not applicable

