

**STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report to Audit & Accounts Committee**

**2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Statement of Accounts 2023/24</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Councillor Chris Wood</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Keith Pointon – Head of Finance</b> <b>Sharon Hall – Principal Finance Officer</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>Non-specific</b>

**Appendix A: Staffordshire Moorlands Draft Statement of Accounts**

[https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/media/9240/Draft-Statement-of-Accounts-2023---2024/pdf/SOA\\_Staffordshire\\_Moorlands\\_23-24\\_a.pdf?m=1717157799890](https://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/media/9240/Draft-Statement-of-Accounts-2023---2024/pdf/SOA_Staffordshire_Moorlands_23-24_a.pdf?m=1717157799890)

**Appendix B: Chief Finance Officer Review of Accounts**

**1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 To allow for the scrutiny of the draft Statement of Accounts 2023/24, in compliance with the legislative provisions relating to financial reporting and the Council's commitment to transparency and accountability in the stewardship of public funds.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Members note the draft Statement of Accounts 2023/24 prior to external audit.

**3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's financial statements. These, prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code of Practice') and based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), are required to present 'a true and fair view' of the financial position of the Council at the accounting date (period ended 31st March 2024).

- 3.2 Part 2, Section 8(2) of The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 state that the Chief Finance Officer signs the Statement of Accounts by 31<sup>st</sup> May each year certifying that the accounts represent a 'true and fair view' of the Authority's financial position. The 2023/24 draft statements were published on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- 3.3 Members' are asked to note the draft Statement of Accounts 2023/24 (see Appendix A for draft accounts) at this stage, prior to external audit. The audited Statement of Accounts will then be presented at the November meeting of the Committee. This provides the opportunity for members of the Committee to scrutinise the Statement of Accounts prior to the Chair of the Committee signing the audited Accounts.
- 3.4 By formally approving the Statement of Accounts, the Audit & Accounts Committee will be demonstrating its confidence in the responsible financial officer (Executive Director & Chief Finance Officer) and in the process by which the Statement of Accounts has been prepared.
- 3.5 To further aid Members, Appendix B provides the Chief Finance Officer review, which challenges some of the more material financial movements compared to the previous year and requests further clarification on certain areas.

#### **4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The preparation of the Statement of Accounts is dictated by legislation. As such it is not directly linked to a corporate priority, although the Council is committed to the guiding principle of transparency and accountability in the stewardship of public funds.

#### **5. Options and Analysis**

- 5.1 The Statement of Accounts is primarily a record of fact. Areas of discretion are treated in accordance with guidance and professional judgement. Consequently, there are no other options to consider.
- 5.2 The Statement of Accounts have been subject to external audit by Grant Thornton.

#### **6. Implications**

- 6.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)  
None

- 6.2 Workforce  
None

- 6.3 Equality and Diversity/ Equality Impact Assessment  
This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Equality and Diversity policies.

6.4 Financial Considerations

There are a substantial number of financial considerations throughout the Statement of Accounts.

6.5 Legal

There are a number of legal requirements in respect of financial reporting that the Council is required to comply with, which are detailed in the appropriate sections within the Statement of Accounts.

6.6 Climate Change

None

6.7 Internal and External Consultation

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require the Statement of Accounts and supporting documents to be made available for public inspection for 30 full working days prior to the 'appointed date for exercise of public rights'.

6.8 Risk Assessment

There are a number of areas of risk embedded throughout the Statement of Accounts. These have been individually addressed and treated in accordance with guidance and professional judgement.

**Martin Owen**  
**Executive Director (Resources) – S.151 Officer**

***Background Papers***

2022/23 Closure of Accounts files  
(various)

***Location***

Joint Finance Team,  
Moorlands House, Leek

***Contacts***

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