



Audit and Standards Committee Report

Report of: Eugene Walker
Executive Director of Resources,
Local Authority Section 151 Officer

Date: 10th June 2021

Subject: 2019/20 Statement of Accounts
- conclusion of the external audit

Author of Report: David Phillips
Head of Strategic Finance

Summary: The purpose of the report is to communicate to the Committee that we have now received our external auditor's opinion and the certificate concluding our 2019/20 external audit.

Recommendations: The Audit and Standards Committee notes this report

Background Papers: Attached certificate from external audit

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
NO
Legal Implications
NO
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
None
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Terry Fox
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Not applicable
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 10 JUNE 2021

2019/20 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S 2019/20 CERTIFICATE

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of the following report is to communicate to the Committee that the Council's external auditors have now concluded the Council's 2019/20 audit.

Introduction and Background

2. As reported to previous Audit and Standards Committees, the audit of the Council's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts has been ongoing since summer 2020. Audit deadlines were extended and have been delayed due to Covid-19 and remote working. During the external audit process the Audit and Standards Committee have been kept up to date, and the Council's external auditor Ernst and Young's (EY) findings have been received and shared with the Committee throughout the audit.
3. The Committee received the final 2019/20 Audited Statement of Accounts, and EY's final Audit Results Report summarising their findings at its 22nd April 2021 meeting. The Committee approved the Statement of Accounts and accompanying Letter of Representation at that meeting.

External Audit opinion and certificate

4. Following the April Committee meeting EY issued their opinion on the Council's 2019/20 Statement of Accounts on 30th April 2021. The auditor concluded that:
 - The Council's financial statements gave a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2020 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended (an 'unqualified audit opinion');
 - The 2019/20 Statement of Accounts had been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20; and
 - in all significant respects, the Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2020 (the 'value for money conclusion').
5. Since April 2021 EY have been completing the remaining area of audit work needed for 2019/20, namely the review of the assurance statement on the Council's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack submitted to Central Government. This work has now concluded.

6. Consequently on 28th May 2021 the Council's external auditor issued their certificate. This certificate concludes the Council's audit for the year by certifying that the auditor has completed their audit of the accounts of Sheffield City Council in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

7. This certificate is attached to these papers for the Committee's information.

Publication of the 2019/20 Statement of Accounts

8. The 2019/20 Statement of Accounts has been published on the Council's website, and a statement added that the audit has been concluded and the accounts have been published.

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications

10. There are no equal opportunities implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

Property Implications

11. There are no property implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

Recommendations

12. It is recommended:

- that the Audit and Standards Committee notes the successful conclusion of the 2019/20 audit.

David Phillips
Head of Strategic Finance

28 May 2021