



AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Monday, 25 July 2022

Subject	Draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22
Report by	Councillor Maurice Cook Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources
Supporting Officer	Brian Mew Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer Brian.Mew@eastsoffolk.gov.uk 01394 444571

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
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Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is NOT in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
Wards Affected:	All Wards

Purpose and high-level overview

Purpose of Report:

To present the 2021/22 Draft Statement of Accounts to the Committee for approval.

Options:

There is no requirement for the draft Statement of Accounts to be presented to the Committee, but this is a useful opportunity for the Committee to review and comment prior to publication on the Councils website.

Recommendation/s:

That having reviewed the Draft Statement of Accounts for 2021/22, the Committee note the report.

Corporate Impact Assessment

Governance:

The publication of the Statement of Accounts is a statutory requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Statement of Accounts demonstrates the Council's governance and value for money, helping to achieve the critical success factors and planned actions set out in the Strategic Plan.

ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:

East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan

Environmental:

No impacts.

Equalities and Diversity:

No impacts.

Financial:

The financial impacts of the Council's outturn position for 2021/22 are detailed in the Statement of Accounts attached as Appendix A. Particular attention is drawn to the Narrative Report in the Statement which provides a commentary on the Council's financial and non-financial performance in 2021/22.

On 5th July 2022 Cabinet received the 2021/22 Outturn Report, providing an overview of the Council's financial performance for the past year in respect of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), Reserves, the Capital Programme and the Collection Fund. At the same meeting, the Q1 budget monitoring report was presented showing progress to date against budget in 2022/23.

Human Resources:

No impacts.

ICT:

No impacts.	
Legal: As referred to under Governance impact.	
Risk: No risks identified specifically in respect of this report, but a high-level summary of the Council's Corporate Risk Register is included in the Narrative Report, and key financial risks are referred to in the Statement of Accounts.	
External Consultees:	None.

Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the Strategic Plan which are supported by this proposal: <i>(Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)</i>		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
T01	Growing our Economy		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
T02	Enabling our Communities		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T03	Maintaining Financial Sustainability		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T04	Delivering Digital Transformation		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
T05	Caring for our Environment		

P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

XXX Governance

XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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How does this proposal support the priorities selected?

Production and publication of the Statement of Accounts is a statutory requirement demonstrating the Council's governance and value for money and helping to achieve the critical success factors and planned actions set out in the Strategic Plan. Providing an opportunity for the Committee to review the draft Statement enhances effective governance.

Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts

1.1	The publication of the Statement of Accounts is a statutory requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Council has a duty to ensure that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and is used economically, efficiently, and effectively.
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2 Current position

2.1	The Council's Statement of Accounts (the Accounts) for the financial year ended 31 March 2022, are written in accordance with The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) code of practice. The Accounts inform readers as to the financial performance of the Council during the financial year and are an important element of demonstrating sound financial stewardship of taxpayers' money.
2.2	The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 have amended the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 meaning the deadlines for publishing the Accounts have once again been delayed for 2021/22. The draft Accounts must now be published and available for inspection on or before 1 August 2022. The Government and key partners have also agreed to extend the deadline for publishing audited local authority accounts to 30 November 2022 for 21/22 accounts, then 30 September for 6 years, beginning with the 22/23 accounts.

3 How to address current situation

3.1	The Council's Draft Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 are attached as Appendix A for review by the Committee. These Accounts are subject to a single period of 30 working days for the exercise of public rights, where any objection, inspection and
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	questioning of the local auditor must be undertaken. Following this meeting, the intention is for the unaudited Accounts to be available to the public on the Council's website from 27th July 2022, so the inspection period will commence on 1st August 2022 and finish on 13 September 2022. Following this, the audit of the Accounts by Ernst & Young is currently scheduled to commence week beginning 5 th December 2022.
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4	Reason/s for recommendation
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4.1	To provide an opportunity for the Committee to review and comment on the draft Statement of Accounts prior to publication.
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Appendices

Appendices:

Appendix A	East Suffolk Council Draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22
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Background reference papers:

None
