

Report for: Corporate Committee 9th September 2021

Title: Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21 and Provisional Plan for Audit 2020/21

Report authorised by: Jon Warlow, Director of Finance (S151 Officer)

Lead Officers: Kaycee Ikegwu, Chief Accountant -
kaycee.ikegwu@haringey.gov.uk
Sahr Kamanda, Deputy Chief Accountant -
sahr.kamanda@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: N/A

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** Non Key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1. This report updates the Committee on the Council's Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21 and the provisional plan for the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 (SOA)

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1. Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

3.1. That the Committee notes the contents of this report, the appended Draft Statement of Accounts and any further update given at the meeting by BDO LLP, in relation to provisional plan for audit of the 2020/21 SOA.

4. Reason for Decision

4.1. None.

5. Other options considered

5.1. None.

6. Background information

6.1. The preparation and audit of the annual statement of accounts is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. Usual timescales are:

- The draft accounts must be prepared and certified by 31 May by the Section 151 Officer that they represent a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council.
 - Audits should then be concluded by 31 July and audited accounts published by this date, or, if audits have not concluded audited accounts should be published as soon as possible after this date.
- 6.2. In response to the pandemic, these timescales were relaxed. In 2020/21, the draft accounts deadline of 31st May was pushed back to 1st August, and the audit completion deadline of 31st July deadline has been pushed back to 30th September.
 - 6.3. The Council's Draft Statement of Accounts was certified and published on the 1st August 2021 in accordance with the regulations. However, the audit of the draft statement of account is unlikely to be completed by 30th September due to the prolonged 2019/20 audit and resources issues with audit firms across the nation. All these were impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.
 - 6.4. The content of the Statement of Accounts is largely determined by statutory requirements and mandatory professional standards as set out within the "Code of Practice on Financial Reporting" published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The CIPFA Code of Practice is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), however adopts these in some cases to tailor their application to Local Government Finance.
 - 6.5. The 2020/21 draft statement of accounts highlights the council performances and achievements during the year. The council GF reserve remained relatively the same. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balance was restored to circa £14m. There was no material transaction in the year that required separate disclosure in the accounts/group accounts.
 - 6.6. The draft statement of accounts highlights, on page 15 - narrative report, the GF and HRA reserve positions at the end of March 2020/21.
 - 6.7. The Public Inspection period commenced from Monday 2 August 2021. It will end on Friday 10 September 2021. During this period, any person may inspect the accounts of the London Borough of Haringey for the year ended 31 March 2021.
 - 6.8. As the effect of pandemic continues, the resourcing within the local government audit sector is most likely going to present a challenge to this year's audit. Haringey officers and BDO, our external auditors, will be prioritising resources to ensure that the audit is commenced as soon as possible; and completed earlier than last year's completion date.

6.9. The provisional plan /update sets out the approach the auditors will take, the key issues, timescales, staffing and fee for the audit. Provisional plan/verbal update will be presented by David Eagles, the Audit Partner from BDO.

7. Contribution to Strategic Outcomes

7.1. None.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

8.1. As this report details a financial subject matter, finance comments are made throughout the content of this report.

Legal

8.2. None.

Equalities

8.3. There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Statement of Accounts

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1. Not applicable.