

REPORT FOR: Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee (GARM)

Date: 24 September 2013

Subject: Statement of Accounts 2012-13

Responsible Officer: Simon George, Director of Finance & Assurance

Exempt: No

Enclosures: Appendix 1: Statement of Accounts 2012-13
Appendix 2: ISA260 report of the Auditor
Appendix 3: ISA260 report of the Auditor on Pension Fund
Appendix 4: Pension Fund Annual Report

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the audited Statement of Accounts for 2012-13.

Recommendations:

1. Consider the report of the External Auditor on matters arising from the audit of the 2012-13 accounts for both Harrow Council and the Pension Fund;
2. Approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2012-13 and authorise the signing thereof by the Chair of the meeting
3. Approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2012-13;
4. Authorise the Director of Finance and Assurance following consultation with the Chair to make any final amendments to the Accounts arising from the external audit prior to the signing of the accounts by the auditor;
5. Authorise the Chairman to agree the Annual Audit Letter for publication and submission once all audit matters have been completed; and
6. Note the Pension Fund Annual Report of 2012-13.

Reason:

The Statement of Accounts represents an important formal corporate statutory document. This is reflected in the requirements of the Account and Audit Regulations 2003 and requires the accounts to be signed and dated as approved by the Chairman of the approving Committee.

Section 2 – Report

1. The reporting of the Statement of Accounts is a major part of the strategic principle of providing proper management and stewardship of all the Council's Resources. . The accounts provide details of the overall financial position in the Balance Sheet, details of the revenue activities for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, the Collection Fund, the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and the Pension Fund.
2. The draft Statement of Accounts was signed on 28th June 2013 by the Director of Finance and Assurance and presented to the Committee on 22 July 2013.
3. In accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260, the external auditor (Deloitte LLP) is required to issue detailed reports on matters arising from the audit of the council's accounts and pension fund accounts. This report has to be considered by "those charged with governance" before the external auditor can sign the accounts, which legally has to be done by 30 September 2013.
4. Deloitte LLP were presented with the draft financial statements and accompanying working papers on 1st July 2013.
5. The ISA 260 report contains matters raised by the auditor, their recommendations on the issues, and the management response. Any further update on these items will be given verbally at the meeting. To assist Members in reviewing the external auditor's comments the audited Statement of Accounts.

Section 3 - Financial Implications

8. The Statement of Accounts shows the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2013.

Section 4 - Equalities Implications

9. There are no equalities implications.

Section 5 - Corporate Priorities

10. The Statement of Accounts provides assurance that the Council has managed and delivered its finances in accordance with its approved plans and budget and are an integral part of corporate governance.

Section 3 – Statutory clearance

Name: Simon George



Chief Financial Officer

Date: 5th September 2013

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Hasina Shah, Head of Technical Finance and Accountancy (Tel: 02084241573 – internal 2573)

Background Papers: Draft Statement of Accounts
http://www.harrow.gov.uk/info/200110/council_budgets_and_spending/698/statement_of_accounts/2