

Report to Audit and Risk Committee

16th September 2021

Subject:	Statement of Accounts 2019/20
Director:	Director of Finance – Simone Hines
Contact Officer:	Rebecca Maher Head of Finance rebecca_maher@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20, as attached at Appendix 1 be approved along with the Letter of Representation.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The final Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 have now been audited by Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditor and are attached at Appendix 1. The Management Representation Letter is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The Audit Findings Report from Grant Thornton is a separate item on the agenda.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		The Council's financial status helps to underpin the Council's Corporate Plan and associated aspirations.
		
		

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 and Management Representation Letter are required to be approved in order for the Council to meet its statutory obligations in relation to financial reporting.
- 4.2 The draft Statement of Accounts and Audit Findings Report were presented to the Committee in March of this year. At that stage there were still queries to resolve with Grant Thornton, largely around asset valuations. Although this has taken longer than anticipated, outstanding queries have now been resolved and at the time of writing the report the appropriate adjustments were being made to the accounts. A verbal update will be given at the meeting to confirm that this has all been completed.
- 4.3 The Statement is a lengthy document, indicative of the complexity of Local Government accounting rules. The key statements are:
- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
 - Movement in Reserves Statement
 - Balance Sheet
 - Cash Flow statement
 - Housing Revenue Account
 - Collection Fund Statement
- 4.4 There are then a number of notes to these statements that provide further detail.



5 Alternative Option

5.1 There are no alternative options to be considered

6 Implications

Resources:	The Statement of Accounts sets out the Council's financial position for the year ended 31 st March 2020
Legal and Governance:	The Accounts and Audit Regulations require the accounts to be completed and audited a set date each year (which has been amended on a temporary basis during the COVID pandemic)
Risk:	The Statement of Accounts sets out the financial risks the authority is facing and makes provisions for these where appropriate
Equality:	Not applicable
Health and Wellbeing	No specific implications
Social Value	Not applicable

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statement of Accounts 2019/20 (to follow)

Appendix 2 – Management Representation Letter 2019/20 (to follow)

8. Background Papers

CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and associated guidance

