

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

18 JULY 2025

DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (SUBJECT TO AUDIT) 2024/2025

Report of the Director of Finance

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee Members with a copy of the draft Statement of Accounts (subject to audit) for 2024/2025 (Appendix A).
- 1.2 To provide Members with a copy of the Narrative Statement and the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/2025 (Appendix B and C).
- 1.3 To provide Members with a copy of the Public Rights of Inspection Notice for 2024/2025 (Appendix D).
- 1.4 To provide Members with the Letters of Assurance required by the external auditor as part of the Statement of Accounts process (Appendix E and F).

2 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
 - 2.1.1 Note the draft Statement of Accounts and the Statements and Notices which the Authority must produce in order to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (Appendix A, B, C & D);
 - 2.1.2 Approve the contents of the Letter of Assurance from those charged with governance (Appendix E); and
 - 2.1.3 Note the contents of the Letter of Assurance from those charged with discharging management processes and responsibilities (Appendix F).

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations set the statutory audit deadlines for local authorities to approve and publish their accounts for 2024/2025. The Council was required to publish its draft Statement of Accounts no later than 30 June 2025 and its audited Statement of Accounts needs to be published no later than 27 February 2026. The Council published the draft Accounts on 23 June 2025.

4 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (SUBJECT TO AUDIT) 2024/2025

- 4.1 The draft accounts are provided at Appendix A for information. These have been certified by the Director of Finance and the external audit commenced on 1 July 2025.
- 4.2 Both the Narrative Statement and the Annual Governance Statement are included within the Statement of Accounts. Members have previously approved the Annual Governance Statement at the Committee Meeting on 25 April 2025.
- 4.3 The Public Rights of Inspection Notice sets out the period for the exercise of public rights which must be a single period of 30 working days and must include the first 10 working days in July.
- 4.4 The Letters of Assurance have been prepared in response to Forvis Mazars' requests regarding any risks or issues that have arisen during 2024/2025 relating to governance or management.