

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	25 SEPTEMBER 2013

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SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13	Finance and Resources	Lee Hurst	4

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The External Auditor has completed the audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 and expects to issue an unqualified audit opinion on those accounts. To comply with the relevant legislation, Committee is required to approve the audited Statement of Accounts by 30th September 2013.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

1. consider and approve the Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 as contained in Appendix A and authorise for issue by means of their signing by the Chief Executive and Chair of the Committee;
2. authorise the Chief Executive and Chair of the Committee to sign the Letter of Representation contained in Appendix B.

DETAILS AND REASONING

A summary of the Financial Statements was presented to Committee on 26 June 2013. Members are now presented with the full audited Statement of Accounts. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 require that the statement should be approved by a meeting of members by 30 September 2013.

Following consideration and approval by this Committee, the Chair should sign and date the Statement, which should also be re-certified by the Chief Finance Officer (Chief Executive), and be published by 30 September 2013. The Statement of Accounts will be published on the South Ribble Borough Council web site, www.southribble.gov.uk.

The Chair and the Chief Executive, as Chief Finance Officer, should also sign the Letter of Representation attached as Appendix B. This is referred to in the report from Grant Thornton.

AUDIT FINDINGS

The key messages are that the auditor intends to issue an unqualified audit opinion. In relation to VFM, she has outlined that the Council has a good track record of achieving its budget and its cost savings requirements noting that "South Ribble continues to achieve savings through improved processes, negotiations with contractors and having an excellent understanding of its costs" and that the Council achieved its target efficiency savings for 2012/13 without having a detrimental impact on performance. With regard to the significant risks identified in the 2012/13 audit plan her testings have not revealed any issues that she would wish to report. She has however had to communicate that the additional checking on transactions between members and the Council,

requested for the last three years, was again overlooked, only being done at the auditors request. This has subsequently been undertaken and identified no material transactions.

Finally, a small number of presentational and disclosure changes were suggested, and have been made, to the explanatory foreword and notes to the accounts to aid in clarification, compliance and referencing. None of these minor matters affected the main financial statements.

Committee is now asked to approve and authorise the signing of both the accounts and the letter of representation.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these. The risk assessment which has been carried out forms part of the background papers to the report.

FINANCIAL	There are no implications resulting directly from this report.		
LEGAL	This report is presented to comply with the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2003.		
RISK	There are no implications resulting directly from this report.		
OTHER (see below)			
<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- The Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 56(5)
- South Ribble Borough Council (unaudited) Statement of Accounts 2012/13 – Governance Committee, 26th June 2013
- Grant Thornton Audit Findings Report (separately reported on the agenda)
- Grant Thornton Financial Resilience Report (separately reported on the agenda)

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Statement of Accounts for South Ribble Borough Council for year ended 31 March 2013 (for approval and signing).
Appendix B	Letter of Representation (for signing).