**Report of the Governance Committee**

1. Any Governance recommendations on the reports that require a decision by full Council appear as separate items on the agenda.

**GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28 AUGUST 2020**

**External Auditor Update**

1. The committee received a verbal report from the Council’s External Auditor, Grant Thornton and were advised that progress was continuing for the audit 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.
2. The committee were advised that a detailed plan was being produced to ensure the audit is conducted as quickly as possible. A great deal of work had already been completed, but the findings of the internal audit reports were yet to be considered as well as changes to the external audit environment such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. A new Grant Thornton resource on financial reporting as a result of COVID-19 and a National Audit Office report on reporting would be shared with the Governance Committee.

**Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year 2019/20**

1. The Committee received a report of the Deputy Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer which sought to present the draft statement of accounts for 2019/2020 and to advise on the statutory requirements and role of members.
2. The Committee noted that a member training session on the accounts would be arranged and held before the accounts are finalised.
3. We sought clarification on the point that the corporate risk register was not being monitored. It was reported that corporate risks had been identified but not monitored due to attention being drawn to other matters. This is one of the issues being taken forward through the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.

COUNCILLOR IAN WATKINSON
CHAIR OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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