



Committee and date  
Audit Committee  
18 September 2014  
Council  
25 September 2014

## AUDITED ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2013/14

**Responsible Officer** James Walton

Email: james.walton@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: (01743) 255011

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This covering report and attached Annual Statement of Accounts, present to Members the final audited outturn position for the financial year 2013/14.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:

- A. Consider and approve the 2013/14 Statement of Accounts and that the Chairman of the Council signs them (in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011).
- B. To agree that the Head of Finance, Governance and Assurance be authorised to make any minor adjustments to the Statement of Accounts prior to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

## REPORT

### 3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1. Details of the potential risks affecting the balances and financial health of the authority are considered within the Statement of Accounts.

### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. This report considers the overall financial position of the Authority in the form of the Council's Statement of Accounts. The accounts consider the level of assets controlled and owned by the Authority, and the level of balances of held.

### 5. Background

- 5.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 state that members are required to approve the annual accounts after, rather than before, the findings of the audit are known. The formal date for approval and publication of the accounts is 30 September.

- 5.2 A copy of the 2013/14 Statement of Accounts is attached at Appendix 1. The Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, have audited the accounts during July and August. The audit of the accounts is substantially complete and the Auditor has indicated that an unqualified audit opinion will be issued on the accounts, subject to the successful completion of the outstanding matters.
- 5.3 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 also require that the Statement of Accounts is accompanied by the Council's Annual Governance Statement which details the processes and procedures in place to enable the council to carry out its functions effectively. The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Audit Committee on 26 June 2014 and is attached at Appendix 2.

## **6. External Audit Opinion**

- 6.1 Grant Thornton are expected to provide an unqualified audit opinion on the Statement of Accounts and therefore will report as follows.

"In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Shropshire Council as at 31 March 2014 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2014 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 and applicable law.

## **7. Changes from the Draft Statement of Accounts Certified by the Head of Finance, Governance & Assurance on 27 June 2014**

- 7.1 There have been no material changes identified during the audit, however there have been a number of additional disclosures required and minor changes made, all with the agreement of Grant Thornton. The main changes are listed below:
- a) Additional disclosure note provided to evidence the restatement of the 2012/13 comparative figures relating to the changes in the IAS19 Employee Benefits Accounting Standard.
  - b) Removed payments in advance and receipts in advance figures from the disclosure note for financial instruments.
  - c) Updated Group Accounts to reflect audit adjustments made to the statement of accounts for the organisations consolidated within the Group boundary.
  - d) Other additional disclosures or minor amendments have been included within the Notes to the Core Financial Statements.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

Statement of Accounts 2013/14. Audit Committee 26 June 2014

CIPFA's Code of Practice (Code) on Local Authority Accounting

CIPFA/SOLACE guidance on the Annual Governance Statement

Revenue and Capital Budget 2013/14

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

All

**Local Member**

All

**Appendices**

1. Statement of Accounts 2013/14 (Audited)
2. Annual Governance Statement