



## **North Devon Council**

Report Date: 11 June 2024

Topic: Draft Statement of Accounts 2023-24

Report by: Jon Triggs, Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require that the Local Authority prepare a Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices and that the Accounts be formally approved. This report summarises the requirements of the Regulations and submits the 2023-24 unaudited Draft Statement of Accounts for Governance Committee to approve prior to the external audit taking place.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1. It is recommended that the Draft Statement of Accounts 2023-24 be approved.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1. There is a statutory requirement to approve and sign the annual accounts.

3.2. The unaudited Statement of Accounts report the actual financial performance achieved in the year and sets out the Council's overall financial position including its Assets and Liabilities. Under regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant to Article 4.5.3 of the Constitution, the power to approve the Final Accounts is a function exercised by Full Council.

3.3. Once audited, the Accounts will proceed to Full Council for approval.

### **4. REPORT**

4.1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require that the chair of Full Council must approve, sign and date the Final Audited Accounts.

4.2. The external auditors (Bishop Fleming) will audit the draft Accounts and their Audit Findings report will be presented to the Governance Committee in the autumn of 2024.

4.3. Attached are the Council's Unaudited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 for members of Governance Committee to consider prior to the external audit.

### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. As contained in the report and statement of accounts.

### **6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT**

6.1. There are not any equalities implications anticipated as a result of the report.



## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. There are not any environmental implications anticipated as a result of this report, as the purpose of this report is to present the Council's overall financial performance for the year.

## 8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The Revenue Budget, the Medium Term Financial Strategy and individual schemes within the Capital Programme all support the wider delivery plans of the Council in achieving the corporate priorities.

## 9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

The decision in respect of the recommendations in this report can be made pursuant to Annexe 1 paragraph 5(c) of Part 3 of the Constitution.

## 10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

## 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report.

## 12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers:

Jon Triggs, Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive