



North Devon Council

Report Date: 20 November 2024

Topic: Statement of Accounts 2023-24

Report by: Chief Financial Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 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 Statement of Accounts for Council to approve.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. It is recommended that the attached Statement of Accounts 2023-24 be approved, and that the Chairman of the Council sign and date the Statement of Accounts as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

4. REPORT

4.1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations require that the chair of the Committee or meeting, which approves the Accounts, must sign and date them. The expressed intention is that the chair's signature should formally represent the completion of the Council's approval process of the Accounts.

4.2. The external auditors (Bishop Fleming LLP) have audited the Accounts and their report was presented to the Governance Committee on 12 November 2024.

4.3. Attached as **Appendix A** are the Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

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 this report.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

7.1. Article 4.5.3 of Part 2 paragraph:

7.2. The Final 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, the power to approve the Final Accounts is a function exercised by full Council.

8. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

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

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

10. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

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

Tony Rumble, Finance Manager (and deputy S151 officer)