

REPORT TO:		Audit Committee	
DATE:		19 September 2016	
PORTFOLIO:		Cllr Gareth Molineux - Resources	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Stephen Brindle – Head of Accountancy	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Statement of Accounts 2015/16	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	Options	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	Options	If yes, date of publication:	

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To present for approval the Statement of Accounts for 2015/16.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is recommended to approve the Statement of Accounts for 2015/16.

3. **Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

3.1 The draft accounts were completed and published on the Council's website in mid-June. Subsequently, Grant Thornton started their on-site audit of the accounts and the work is close to completion.

3.2 The formal audit findings are presented in a separate report from Grant Thornton elsewhere on this agenda.

3.3 The period of public inspection of the accounts began on 28th June and ended 8th August. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 say the Council must, following the conclusion of the right of public inspection, in the following order:

- Consider, either by way of committee or by the members as a whole, the statement of accounts
- Approve the statement of accounts by a resolution of that committee or meeting
- Ensure that the statement of accounts is signed and dated by the person presiding at the committee or meeting at which that approval is given

3.4 The statement of Accounts is at Appendix A. The Deputy Chief Executive, the Council's responsible financial officer has re-certified the accounts confirming that they provide a true and fair view of:

- The financial position of the authority at the end of the financial year to which it relates
- The authority's income and expenditure for that financial year

3.5 Subject to the Committee's approval and receipt of the auditor's opinion, the accounts will be published on the Council's website. The Statement of Accounts includes the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report both of which have to be published with the financial statements.

3.6 Once confirmation has been received from Grant Thornton that the audit is complete, a 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit' will be published. It will explain that the audit of the Council's accounts has finished and say where the accounts and auditor's report can be inspected.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None

5. Consultations

5.1 None

6. Implications

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	As described in the statement of accounts.
Legal and human rights implications	Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to approve and publish its audited Statement of Accounts by September 30 th each year. Councillors' approval of the accounts at this meeting will allow us to satisfy the requirement.
Assessment of risk	None

7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:**
List of Background Papers

7.1 None

8. **Freedom of Information**

8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.