**Delay in publishing draft Statement of Accounts: Year Ended 31 March 2024**

Under section 10 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Council is required to publish its draft annual Statement of Accounts by 31 May each year. Due to increased audit rigour and residual outstanding prior year issues, the accounts for the period to 31 March 2024 will be delayed.

The Statement of Accounts includes the Council's Annual Governance Statement and the Narrative Report.

The delay in publishing the 2023/24 draft Statement of Accounts has been due to ongoing queries relating to the valuation of Council assets, which initially impacted the completion of the audit of the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts, which is now resolved. The extra tasks undertaken caused a delay in the publication of the draft 2021/22 Statement of Accounts and has had an impact on the publication of both the draft 2022/23 and 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.

Further notifications will be placed on the website once the 2023/24 Draft Statement of Accounts is available for public inspection.

Paul Stone

Strategic Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)

31 May 2024