

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Accounts & Audit Committee
Date: 29 July 2019
Report for: Decision
Report of: Corporate Director of Finance and Systems

Report Title

Approval of the Final Accounts 2018/19 (Accounts 2019)

Summary

The pre-audited 2018/19 accounts were approved by the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems on 31st May 2019, and on 3rd June 2019 were submitted to the Council's external auditors, Mazars, and placed on deposit for public inspection for 30 working days.

Attached are the redrafted Final Accounts for 2018/19, as they currently stand at the time of the Committee report distribution and pending any changes prior to the completion of the audit by 31st July 2019. Amendments made are highlighted and accommodate changes currently agreed with Mazars during their audit.

The majority of changes relate to "Disclosure" changes such as formatting, enhancements to improve readability and typographical errors.

The following issues have also been identified during the audit and further details can be found in the Audit Completion Report 2018/19, Item 5 on this Agenda:

Significant Findings (Section 3)

- Property, Plant & Equipment (PPE) - the final elements of audit work are still to be completed;
- Valuation of Defined Pension Liability – the final elements of audit work are still to be completed and concluded. An unadjusted misstatement has been identified where the Council used a revised estimate of pension liability but is not materially different and therefore will not be amended since it is an estimation uncertainty (see also Section 5);
- Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract in Sale Town Centre – subject to clearance of some outstanding audit queries.

Summary of Misstatements (Section 5)

- Valuation of Defined Pension Liability – Unadjusted (see above);
- A number of "disclosure" amendments have been made to improve readability and to correct typographical errors.

Value for Money conclusion (Appendix B)

- In seeking to satisfy themselves that the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, the external auditors have considered the recent Ofsted report, in May 2019, which concluded that following their inspection of children's social care services the Council's services for children was deemed inadequate. As

such the auditor will issue a qualified conclusion, using the term “except for”, in relation to these services. This qualification will remain until these services are no longer assessed as inadequate by Ofsted.

Recommendation

Members are requested to review and note the Accounts as they currently stand.

Approval be delegated to the Chair of Accounts and Audit Committee and the Corporate Director of Finance and Systems to approve the Final Accounts for 2018/19, on or before the statutory deadline of 31 July 2019.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Dave Muggeridge, Strategic Finance Manager, Financial Accounting.
Extension: 4534

Background Papers: None

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	Value for Money
Financial	Failure to approve the accounts in a proper format would be contrary to the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
Legal Implications:	None arising out of this report
Equality/Diversity Implications	None arising out of this report
Sustainability Implications	None arising out of this report
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	Not applicable
Risk Management Implications	Not applicable
Health & Wellbeing Implications	Not applicable
Health and Safety Implications	Not applicable