

(the Code) and all other relevant accounting legislation. There were no material accounting changes for 2022/23.

2.0 The Statement of Accounts

2.1 The Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2022/23 were signed off by the Council's S151 Officer in June 2023 before the start of the external audit review. The draft accounts have been available on-line since then.

2.2 The detailed management accounts were included in the outturn report presented to the Cabinet on the 6 June 2023. This report provides a summary of the year-end position for the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, and the Capital Programme. It provides commentary on any variances against budget in excess of £20k.

2.3 As can be seen from the reserve balances held, the Council remains in a strong position to deal with the funding challenges it faces. A strong culture of financial awareness is now embedded throughout the Council. This is enhanced with regular budget monitoring reports produced for Leadership Team meetings, meetings of the Cabinet and the Policy Development Groups.

2.4 This Council continues to take proactive steps to strategically plan for further reductions in Central Government financial support. The Cabinet have ongoing dialogue with Leadership Team, who in turn have discussions with Corporate Managers and service managers to discuss funding reduction scenarios in order to balance our ongoing expenditure needs associated with the current Corporate Plan.

3.0 Changes to the Accounts

3.1 Grant Thornton presented the initial findings on the 2022/23 Accounts to Audit Committee in December 2023. However, at the time the 3Rivers accounts audit had not completed therefore the Group elements of the accounts had not be audited. Following the completion of the 3Rivers external audit, Grant Thornton have completed their audit of the 2022/23 accounts.

3.2 There have been some changes to the draft account previously reviewed by the Committee in August 2023. These relate to updating the Group Accounts to reflect the finalised, audited, accounts of 3Rivers. These are highlighted yellow in the accounts and in summary are:

Statement / Note	Row	Column	Old Value	New Value	Movement
MiRS	Surp/Def on Provision of Services	Authority's Share of Subsidiary	1,862	3,803	1,941
MiRS	Adj Between Group Ac & Authority Ac	Authority's Share of Subsidiary	- 507	- 111	396
CIES	Subsidiary Company	Gross Expenditure	1,376	3,713	2,337
CIES	Subsidiary Company	Net Expenditure	1,355	3,692	2,337
Balance Sheet	Work in Progress	Consolidated 31 March 2023	13,946	11,632	- 2,314
Balance Sheet	Short-Term Creditors	Consolidated 31 March 2023	- 11,023	- 11,046	- 23
Balance Sheet	Usable Reserves	Consolidated 31 March 2023	51,964	49,627	- 2,337
Cash Flow	Surp/Def on Provision of Services	Consolidated 2022/23	5,234	2,897	- 2,337
Cash Flow	Adj to Net Surp/Def on Prov of Serv	Consolidated 2022/23	- 4,958	- 2,621	2,337
Note 1	Managing Director, 3 Rivers Dev Ltd	Salary (Including Allowances)	80,639	80,862	223
Note 1	Managing Director, 3 Rivers Dev Ltd	Pension Contributions	22,095	7,983	- 14,112
Note 4	Work in Progress	2022/23	13,946	11,632	- 2,314

3.3 There has also been a minor change within Note 5 – Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations relating to Pensions. This corrects an error when adjusting for the updated pension valuation report in June. The error was limited to note 5, with one figure increasing by £31k and the other decreasing by £31k.

3.4 These alterations have no impact on the reported Outturn position or the Councils Usable Reserves.

4.0 The Council's Governance Arrangements

4.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was reviewed taking into account external and internal audit reviews and feedback from the Senior Leadership Team. It includes a review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements and concludes that the existing arrangements remain fit for purposes and help provide reasonable assurance of their effectiveness.

4.2 The committee reviewed the AGS at its August 2023 meeting, however, signing the document sits alongside the finalisation of the Statement of Accounts. Therefore, the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council will be asked to re-sign once the Accounts are signed.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Members are asked to approve the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts which reflect a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2023. The Committee is also required to formally approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement and the Letter of Representation.

Financial Implications

Good financial management and administration underpins the entire document.

Legal Implications

It is a statutory requirement to follow the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) when producing the Statement of Accounts.

Risk Assessment

The Section 151 Officer is responsible for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council. Adhering to the Code mitigates the risk of receiving a qualified set of accounts. The Finance Team has also reviewed its overall calculations/workings against the CIPFA published Disclosure Checklist for 2022/23 and entered into detailed discussions with the appointed Audit Manager prior to and during the completion of the accounts.

Impact on Climate Change

No impacts identified for this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

No equality issues identified with this report.

Relationship to Corporate Plan

The financial resources of the Council impact directly on its ability to deliver the Corporate Plan. The Statement of Accounts indicates how the Council's resources have been used to support the delivery of budgetary decisions.

Section 3 – Statutory Officer sign-off/mandatory checks

Statutory Officer: Andrew Jarrett

Agreed by or on behalf of the Section 151

Date: 22/04/2024

Statutory Officer: Maria De Leburne

Agreed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 22/04/2024

Chief Officer: Stephen Walford

Agreed by or on behalf of the Chief Executive/Corporate Director

Date: 22/04/2024

Performance and risk: Dr Stephen Carr

Agreed on behalf of the Corporate Performance & Improvement Manager

Date: 22/04/2024

Cabinet member notified: (yes)

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Paul Deal, Head of Finance, Property and Climate Resilience
Email: Pdeal@middevon.gov.uk
Telephone: 01884 23(4254)

Background papers: 2022/23 Draft Statement of Accounts
2022/23 Draft Annual Governance Statement
2022/23 Draft Letter of Representation
2022/23 Audit Findings Report (Grant Thornton)