

Barrow Borough Council
Audit and Governance Committee
29 July 2021
Closedown Update 2020-2021

Report from: Director of Resources

Report Author: Director of Resources

Wards: None

1.0 Summary and Conclusions

1.1 This report provides an update relating to the closedown of the accounts for 2020-2021.

1.2 A further update will be reported at the meeting.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee note the closedown update 2020-2021.

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 For the 2020-2021 financial year, the publication date is 31 July 2021.

3.2 The ledger has been closed and the Statement of Accounts has been prepared; the checks and consistency review work has commenced.

3.3 The results for 2020-2021 will be reported to the Executive Committee and to this committee once approval to issue has been given.

3.4 The Finance Department is operating with reduced accountancy resources as recruitment has not been successful and all effort had to focus on the production of the Statement; resource needs will be addressed.

3.5 Plans are still on track to publish the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts and the draft Annual Governance Statement before the 31 July 2021. The documents are to be published online and provided to Grant Thornton for audit.

3.6 With the potential audit timeframe beginning in August, resources will need to be accommodated by the Council and Grant Thornton. The Council has no

intention to restrict annual leave over the summer and there will be an open and ongoing dialogue with the external audit team to match up work between the accountants and other staff, and the audit team members.

3.7 The Audit Plan will establish the timeframe and it may be possible to update on this at the meeting.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 There is no relevant consultation, this report is only for noting.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options as the report is presented for noting.

6.0 Contribution to Council Plan Priorities

6.1 In order to be able to deliver Council Plan Priorities the Council must be financially resilient and have good financial management. The opinion of the appointed auditor informs financial management and the value for money conclusion focusses on the Council's use of resources.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. There are vacancies to fill within the Finance Department and these will be progressed. Temporary resource has allowed the production of the Statement of Accounts and further interim resources are under consideration.

Legal

7.1.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity

7.2 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No, this report is for information.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
The audit is not completed.	Reputational risk.	Closedown plan and ongoing dialogue with Grant Thornton audit team.

Contact Officers

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