

## PROGRESS REPORT – 2021/22 EXTERNAL AUDIT

### Introduction

1. This paper provides the Committee with a progress report on plans to produce and audit the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.

### Recommendation

2. The Committee are asked to note the timetable for producing the 2021/22 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts and comment on the Progress Report from Grant Thornton.

### Timetable

3. The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities, subject to consultation, intend to introduce secondary legislation to extend the deadline for publishing audited accounts to 30 November 2022 for the 2021/22 financial year. Following this, the deadline will be shortened to 30 September for the following 6 years (2022/23 to 2027/28).
4. Based on the above deadlines the planned timetable for preparation and audit of the accounts is detailed below.

**Table 1 – Timetable for the Statement of Accounts**

	<b>2021/22 Planned dates</b>
Interim Audit Commences	7 March 2022
Draft accounts produced and signed by Section 151 Officer	End May
Draft accounts and working papers ready for audit review	End May
Pension Fund Committee receive Audit Plan	10 June 2022
Pension Fund Committee receive draft accounts	10 June 2022
Grant Thornton Audit Review starts	Early July
Draft Audit Findings Report presented to Pension Fund Committee	9 September
Final Audit Findings Report to Audit and Governance Committee	Oct/Nov
Annual Report including Audited Statement of Accounts published*	1 December

\*The Cheshire West and Chester Council Audit must be signed off before the Pension Fund Audited Accounts can be published. In the event that they are not signed off the Annual Report will still be published by the above deadline with the exception of the audit report.



## **Grant Thornton Progress Report**

5. Grant Thornton's Progress Update on the audit plans for 2021/22 is attached as Appendix A.

