

The Committee **noted** the report.

80 **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21**

The Committee was presented with the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.

Members noted the Statement of Accounts was published in July 2021 but Ernst & Young were continuing with Audit which is due to complete before December 2021. No issues have been raised by the Auditors so far. Training slides were to be circulated by Kevin Miles. Members noted the general reserve balance was £10.9 million, the property, plants and equipment value had increased by £187 million and the Business Rates Income had reduced by £42 million (mainly due to reliefs offered due to COVID) but was offset by Government grants. Members noted that a decision was due to be made to continue with PSAA group tender exercise to decide on external auditors.

The Committee member were disappointed to hear that the EY audit had not been completed by officers explained that this was due to a lack of staff due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the majority of councils were delayed in signing off their accounts.

The Committee **noted** the report.

Chairman