

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

16 March 2021

Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation and Questions from Councillors

Statements and Questions from Susan McGill

**To Councillor Pauline Church, Cabinet Member for Finance,
Procurement and Commercial Investment**

Statement 1

As of 10 March 2021, Wiltshire Council's Statement of Accounts is still in draft form only.

Question 1 (21-77)

Please would you detail the reason(s) why this is the case?

Response:

A report was presented to the Audit & Governance Committee at its meeting on 10 February 2021 that gave an update on the Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2019/20 and can be found [here](#).

During the latter part of December 2020, it became apparent that a significant proportion of audit queries on the 2019/20 accounts remained outstanding. A meeting was held between Deloitte, the council's external auditors, and council officers and due to the limited resources available to complete audit field work, and the appropriate review processes required before publication of papers it was agreed that to continue to work towards the February Audit and Governance Committee date for audit conclusion and a recommendation to approve the accounts was unachievable, and therefore, as per the report to the Committee, it was planned that the final audited 2019/20 Statement of Accounts would be presented to its next meeting in April.

Question 2 (21-78)

Please would you state the date by which the confirmed Statement will be published?

Response:

The report mentioned in the response to the previous question set out a commitment to continue to provide focus on resolving outstanding issues and work with a view to present the final audited Statement of Accounts to the Audit & Governance Committee at its next meeting in April for approval. The reported noted that additional

work was required by both council and audit staff to address the outstanding audit queries and complete the audit process and although a commitment has been made to progress to the next committee a risk remains that the outstanding work may not be completed in time to achieve this. The accounts will be presented to the next available Audit & Governance Committee following the completion of the audit, with a view that this is the next meeting in April.