

Statement of Accounts 2019/20

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact James Walton, Treasurer, on 01743 258915 or Joanne Coadey, Head of Finance, on 01743 260215.

1 Purpose of Report

This report presents the completed Statement of Accounts to the Committee, for consideration and approval.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the Statement of Accounts 2019/20 (subject to final auditor amendment), and
- b) Delegate final amendments following completion of the audit to the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

3 Background

At its meeting in February 2012, the Fire Authority delegated authority to the Audit and Performance Management Committee to consider and approve the annual Statement of Accounts. The Committee will also receive the Annual Governance Report and the opinion of the Auditor and will sign the Letter of Representation as those charged with governance.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 state that the Statement of Accounts must be approved by the Treasurer and published on the Authority's website by 31 May following the end of the financial year. However due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulation 2020 was passed to amend the dates by which the Statement of Accounts must be approved and published. Draft statements must now be approved by 31 August 2020, with final audited accounts published by 30 November 2020.

The Statement for 2019/20 has been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and is Appendix A to this report. Appendix B to the report details notable movements between financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20.

4 General Fund

The Statement of Accounts has now been audited by external auditors Grant Thornton, and their conclusions are reported at item 7 on this agenda.

In June 2020, the Fire Authority approved use of the General Fund balance, which was subject to audit amendments.

5 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications other than those within the report.

6 Legal Comment

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7 Initial Impact Assessment

The Statement of Accounts is a set of financial statements, set out in response to the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. An initial Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

8 Appendices

Appendix A

Statement of Accounts 2019/20

As the Statement is in excess of 90 pages a hard copy has not been included with the meeting papers but can be accessed on the Fire Authority's website via the following link:

<https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/meeting/24-september-2020>

Appendix B

Balance Sheet Movements

9 Background Papers

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

13 February 2012, Report 17

Process for Approval of the Statement of Accounts