

Statement of Accounts 2014/15

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact James Walton, Treasurer, on 01743 255011 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 2014/15 (subject to final auditor amendment);
- b) Delegate final amendments following completion of the audit to the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee; and
- c) Approve the amended Annual Governance Statement, for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts.

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 also receives the Annual Governance Report and the opinion of the Auditor, and signs the Letter of Representation as 'those charged with governance'.

The Statement for 2014/15 has been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and is set out at Appendix A to this report. Appendix B details notable movements between financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The Statement of Accounts has now been audited by external auditors Grant Thornton, and their conclusions are reported at item 6 on this agenda.

4 General Fund

A draft copy of the Statement was taken to the Fire Authority in June 2015, when Members approved use of the General Fund balance, and slippage of unspent budgets of £45,000 into 2015/16.

	£'000
Expenditure that has slipped into 2015/16	45
Balance of General Fund, allocated to reserves	988
Total	1,033

5 Annual Governance Statement

The Fire Authority is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for inclusion in its Statement of Accounts. The AGS for 2014/15 was approved by this Committee in June; however following a review by the Authority's internal auditors, a number of small amendments have been made:

- The internal audit review on Hydrants has been moved from 2014/15 audits completed, to 2015/16 audits to be completed.
- The reference to a Travel and Subsistence audit to be completed in 2015/16 has been removed, as this is done as part of the Payroll audit.

Members are asked to approve the amendments to the AGS, as it is incorporated into the Statement of Accounts.

6 Financial Implications

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

7 Legal Comment

Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, the Fire Authority is required formally to approve the Statement of Accounts 2014/15 by the end of September 2015.

8 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.

9 Appendices

Appendix A

Statement of Accounts 2014/15

As the Statement is in excess of 70 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/17-september-2015>

Appendix B
Balance Sheet Movements

10 Background Papers

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
13 February 2012, Report 17
Process for Approval of the Statement of Accounts