

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

19 SEPTEMBER 2016

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015/2016

Joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and the Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Statement of Accounts for 2015/2016 set out in Appendix A be noted.
- 1.2 THAT the Statement of Accounts summary for 2015/2016 set out in Appendix B be noted.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted for Members to note the Authority's Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2016.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require that the accounts be submitted to Members for approval by the end of September. The Audit Committee at its meeting on 25th July 2016 approved the Statement of Accounts for 2015/2016.
- 3.2 It is a further requirement of the Regulations that Members are informed of any material changes required by the external auditors. The Audit Findings Report was presented to the Audit Committee on 25th July 2016 outlining the findings of the audit work undertaken. Following the Audit Committee meeting, the auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2015/16 financial statements included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts.
- 3.3 The Accounts show net cost of services in 2015/2016 of £107.8 million including an appropriation to earmarked reserves of £3.899 million. General balances have increased by £0.002 million to £9.233million.

- 3.4 The total Provision of Services in 2015/2016 shows a deficit of £60.617 million, after allowing for the required accounting treatment of pensions governed by International Accounting Standard – Nineteen (IAS19). Within this deficit is £103.004 million on the provision of Fire Services, £62.684 million on Pensions and £0.121 million on Fire Service Emergency Planning and Civil Defence. Capital expenditure totalled £3.075 million.
- 3.5 A Statement of Accounts is attached as Appendix A and a summary of accounts is attached as Appendix B, both are available on the Fire Service Internet and can be viewed at <https://www.wmfs.net/your-fire-service/openness/documents>.
- 3.6 A hard copy of the full Statement of Accounts can be supplied to individual Members on request and will be available to view at the Authority meeting.

4. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In preparing this report, an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out because the matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The course of action recommended in this report will enable the Authority to meet its statutory obligations under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

These are contained in the report and the Statement of Accounts.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015
Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2015/2016
Final Accounts Files – Finance Office

The contact officer for this report is Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Phil Hales, telephone number 0121 380 6907.

PHIL LOACH
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

MIKE GRIFFITHS
TREASURER