

# **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**25 JULY 2016**

### **1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015/2016**

Report of the Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Statement of Accounts for 2015/2016 as set out in Appendix A be approved.
- 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 of the Audit Committee to approve 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.
- 3.2 It is a further requirement of the Regulations that Members are informed of any material changes required by the external auditors. Audit work on the Statement of Accounts has been substantially completed.
- 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 also 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 Audit Committee 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.

MIKE GRIFFITHS  
TREASURER