

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

20 MARCH 2023

1. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021/2022**

Report of the Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Statement of Accounts for 2021/2022 as set out in Appendix A be approved.
- 1.2 THAT the Statement of Accounts summary for 2021/2022 set out in Appendix B be noted.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 2.1 This report is submitted for Members of the Audit and Risk Committee to approve the Authority's Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2022.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require that the accounts be submitted to Members for approval by the end of July. However, for 2020/21 and 2021/22 only, the Regulations have been amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021. The deadline to publish the Authority's audited accounts for 2021/22 being pushed back from 31 July 2022 to 30 September 2022. At its meeting on 26 September 2022, Members approved the draft 2021/2022 Statement of Accounts.
- 3.2 In December 2021, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced a new package of measures to support the improved timeliness of local audit and the ongoing stability of the local audit market. The proposals included extending the published/audited deadline to 30 November 2022 for the 2021/22 accounts, then reverting to 30 September for the next six years.

- 3.3 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 by Grant Thornton commenced in July 2022 and the Audit Findings Report was submitted at the 28 November 2022 meeting. Following that report, amendments have been made to the draft Statement of Accounts, previously approved by the Audit & Risk Committee on the 26 September 2022, predominately relating to pension matters.
- 3.4 The Accounts show net cost of services in 2021/2022 of £126.1 million including an appropriation from Earmarked Reserves which have decreased by £7.101 million to £29.816 million and General Reserves have decreased by £1.980 million to £3.858 million.
- 3.5 The total Provision of Services in 2021/2022 shows a deficit of £61.777 million, after allowing for the required accounting treatment of pensions governed by International Accounting Standard – Nineteen (IAS19). Capital expenditure totalled £3.189 million.
- 3.6 The 2021/2022 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 website and can be viewed at <https://www.wmfs.net/documents/>

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 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**

- 5.1 The course of action recommended in this report will enable the Authority to meet its statutory obligations under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are contained in the report and the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Accounts and [Audit Regulations 2015](#).

Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 202¹.

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2021/2022.

Statement of Accounts 2021/2022, Audit and Risk Committee –
26 September 2022.

Audit Findings Report 2021/2022, Audit and Risk Committee –
28 November 2022.

Final Accounts Files – Finance Office.

The contact officer for this report is Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Karen Gowreesunker, telephone number 0121 380 6006.

MIKE GRIFFITHS
TREASURER