

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

**24 JULY 2023**

**1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/2023**

Report of the Treasurer.

**RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 THAT the draft Statement of Accounts for 2022/2023 (unaudited) as set out in Appendix A be approved.
- 1.2 THAT the draft Statement of Accounts summary for 2022/2023 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 draft Statement of Accounts (unaudited) for the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

**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. 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 September 2023 for the 2022/23 accounts, with the intention being for the change to 30 September to remain for six years and end once the 2027/28 accounts have been completed.
- 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 draft Statement of Accounts by Grant Thornton is planned to commence in September 2023 and the Auditor's Interim Audit Findings Report is due to be submitted to the November Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

- 3.4 The draft Accounts show net cost of services in 2022/2023 of £130.5 million, including an appropriation from Earmarked Reserves, which have decreased by £8.403 million to £21.413 million and General Reserves, which have increased by £0.004 million to £3.862 million.
- 3.5 The total Provision of Services in 2022/2023 shows a deficit of £70.451 million after allowing for the required accounting treatment of pensions governed by International Accounting Standard – Nineteen (IAS19). Capital expenditure totalled £2.419 million.
- 3.6 The draft Statement of Accounts (unaudited) is attached as Appendix A and a draft 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/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.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 These are contained in the body of the report and the attached Appendices.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015  
Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2022/2023  
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