

# **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**17 SEPTEMBER 2018**

## **1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/2018**

Report of the Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

1.1 THAT the Statement of Accounts for 2017/2018 as set out in Appendix A be noted.

1.2 THAT the Statement of Accounts summary for 2017/2018 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 2018.

## **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. The Audit & Risk Committee at its meeting on 23 July 2018 approved the Statement of Accounts for 2017/18.

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 & Risk Committee on 23 July 2018 outlining the findings of the audit work undertaken. Following the Audit & Risk Committee meeting, the auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2017/18 financial statements included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts.

3.3 The Accounts show net cost of services in 2017/2018 of £118.445 million which includes the use of £5.596 million General Fund Balances. Earmarked Reserves have decreased by £4.750 million to £38.984 million and General Reserves have decreased by £0.846 million to £8.390 million.

- 3.4 The total Provision of Services in 2017/2018 shows a deficit of £67.439 million, after allowing for the required accounting treatment of pensions governed by International Accounting Standard – Nineteen (IAS19). Capital expenditure totalled £4.527 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 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 2017/2018  
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