

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

30 SEPTEMBER 2019

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2018/2019

Report of the Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Statement of Accounts for 2018/2019 as set out in Appendix A be noted.
- 1.2 THAT the Summary Accounts for 2018/2019 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 2019.

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 and Risk Committee at its meeting on 29th July 2019 approved the Statement of Accounts for 2018/19.
- 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. The Audit Findings Report was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee on 29th July 2019 outlining the findings of the audit work undertaken. The Auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2018/19 financial statements included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts on 31st July 2019.
- 3.3 The Accounts show net cost of services in 2018/2019 of £182.624 million which includes the use of £7.080 million General Fund Balances. Earmarked Reserves have decreased by £5.604 million to £33.380 million and General Reserves have decreased by £1.476 million to £6.914 million.

- 3.4 The total Provision of Services in 2018/2019 shows a deficit of £129.121 million, after allowing for the required accounting treatment of pensions governed by International Accounting Standard – Nineteen (IAS19). Capital expenditure totalled £8.890 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**

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015
Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2018/2019
Final Accounts Files – Finance Office

The contact officer for this report is Gary Taylor, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Strategic Enabler (Process), telephone number 0121 380 6006.

MIKE GRIFFITHS
TREASURER

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