

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

**27 SEPTEMBER 2021**

1. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/2021**

Report of the Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

1.1 THAT the Statement of Accounts for 2020/2021 as set out in Appendix A be approved.

1.2 THAT the Statement of Accounts summary for 2020/2021 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 2021.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Accounts & 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 & Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021. The deadline to publish the Authority's audited accounts for 2020/21 being pushed back from 31 July 2021 to 30 September 2021.

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 by Grant Thornton commenced in July 2021 and has been substantially completed.

3.3 The draft Accounts show net cost of services in 2020/2021 of £118.277 million including an appropriation to Earmarked Reserves which have increased by £6.780 million to £36.917 million and General Reserves have increased by £0.015 million to £5.838

million.

- 3.4 The total Provision of Services in 2020/2021 shows a deficit of £55.211 million, after allowing for the required accounting treatment of pensions governed by International Accounting Standard – Nineteen (IAS19). Capital expenditure totalled £2.304 million.
- 3.5 The 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.

#### 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 & Audit Regulations 2015 and Accounts & Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

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

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

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015  
Accounts & Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021  
Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2020/2021  
Final Accounts Files – Finance Office

The contact officer for this report is Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Wayne Brown, telephone number 0121 380 6907.

MIKE GRIFFITHS  
TREASURER