

8. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019-20 (A.137/21/PN)

Purpose of the Report

- To seek approval for the audited Statement of Accounts for 2019-20.

Recommendations

- 1. That the audited Statement of Accounts for 2019-20 as attached at Appendix 1 be approved and that the amendments made to the draft accounts itemised in Appendix 2 be noted.**
 - 2. That the Chief Finance Officer agrees, to the External Auditors' satisfaction, any further amendments arising from revised actuarial figures which may be received.**

How does this contribute to our policies and legal obligations?

- The Accounts and Audit Regulations Section 9 2015 requires the Statement of Accounts to be approved by Members by 31st July of each year, although there is an extension this year to 30th November because of the Covid emergency. The draft accounts were signed and authorised for issue by the Chief Finance Officer on the 29th May, and were available on the website from that day. The accounts were audited in June, and this report has been prepared on the strength of preliminary audit findings and any further updates will be tabled at committee as appropriate.
- Section 9 (3) a of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 also requires "that the responsible financial officer for a Category 1 authority must re-confirm on behalf of that Authority that they are satisfied that the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of—
(a) the financial position of the authority at the end of the financial year to which it relates; and
(b) that authority's income and expenditure for that financial year."

The Chief Finance Officer re-confirms that the Statement of Accounts in Appendix 1 meets the above requirement.

Proposals

- The position on over and underspending was reported to the Authority Meeting on the 22nd May, and the final audited accounts reflect that position, with a number of small changes following final reserve adjustments between the outturn report and the draft accounts.

Reserve	May Outturn	Final Accounts	Variance plus (minus)	Comments
General Reserve	355,953	351,703	(4,250)	Mainly sale proceeds of a vehicle which should have been appropriated to the Capital Reserve
Capital Reserve	1,288,893	1,292,693	3,800	See above
Specific Reserves	4,655,834	4,655,834	0	-
Restricted Funds	108,988	109,261	273	A small error in the amount drawn down, now corrected
Total	6,409,668	6,409,491	(177)	

Audit of the Accounts

6. The audit has been completed and the audit report is a separate agenda item. Appendix 2 of this report lists the amendments made to the draft Accounts following audit recommendations, and these amendments have all been incorporated into the final version. Because of the very short timescales between drafting the accounts, auditing the accounts, and providing the audit opinion, any further changes required in order to allow the auditors to issue their opinion, will be updated and tabled at the Authority meeting, .
7. The actuaries are producing updated information reflecting changes to their assumptions arising from the McCloud case on the Authority's pension fund, and any impact on the pension figures disclosed in the Statement of Accounts will be discussed with the auditors, and some final changes may be required before the audit opinion is signed off. Members are asked in Recommendation 2 to allow the C.F.O to agree these with the External Auditor.

Are there any corporate implications members should be concerned about?

8. **Financial:**

The financial position was explained in the outturn report to the Authority on the 22nd May and the Statement of Accounts contains explanations and commentary as required by the Code of Accounting Practice. The final adjustments to reserves do not affect any of the advice or conclusions reached in the outturn report.

9. **Risk Management:** Not applicable

10. **Sustainability:** Not applicable

11. **Background Papers** (not previously published) - None

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statement of Accounts for Financial Year 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020
Appendix 2 – Amendments to Draft Accounts

12. **Report Author, Job Title and Publication Date**

Philip Naylor, Chief Finance Officer, 26 August 2020