

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 4 JULY 2012

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12

Report by the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer

1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer to sign the Statement of Accounts no later than 30 June, and certify that they give a true and fair view of the County Council's position. This report presents the accounts certified by the Chief Finance Officer to the Audit Committee for information, before the start of the public inspection period and the commencement of the audit. The Audit Committee will be asked to consider and approve the accounts at its meeting on 19 September, when the findings of the audit are available.
2. The 2011/12 Statement of Accounts is attached at Annex 1. An overview of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2012 is contained in the explanatory foreword.

Changes to the Statement of Accounts

3. The accounts have been compiled in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2011/12 ("the Code") and the 2011/12 Code Update. Following the significant changes made to accounting policies and presentation of the accounts last year with the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards, there are only limited changes to the Code this year.
4. There is a change in accounting policy with the Code's adoption of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 30 *Heritage Assets*. This requires heritage assets to be recognised as a separate class of assets on the Balance Sheet where the County Council has information on the cost or value of heritage assets. The majority of the County Council's heritage assets have been donated or acquired by excavation and therefore information on cost is not available. The cost of obtaining valuations is considered to be disproportionate in comparison to the benefits to the users of the accounts and therefore the heritage assets have not been recognised on the Balance Sheet. Details of the nature and scale of heritage assets held by the County Council are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.
5. There is a new disclosure note on exit packages agreed in the year and minor changes to the financial instrument disclosures.

Local Government Pension Fund Accounts

6. The 2010/11 figures have been restated to reflect changes in accounting policy in relation to employer contributions and cash. An explanation of the change is set out in note 3 to the Pension Fund accounts and a summary of the changes to the fund account and net assets statement is given in note 30.

7. In line with recent guidance, additional disclosure notes have been included in the Pension Fund accounts this year.

Summary Accounts

8. The Summary Accounts (Annex 2) provide a much simplified presentation of the financial position of the County Council. These will be made available to members of the public on the County Council's website alongside the Statement of Accounts.
9. Any questions of detail that members of the Committee may have regarding the accounts can be raised with Stephanie Skivington, Corporate Finance Manager (Tel. 01865 323995).

RECOMMENDATION

10. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) **note the Statement of Accounts for 2011/12 to be submitted to the auditor; and**
- b) **note the Summary Accounts 2011/12.**

SUE SCANE
Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer

Background Papers: Nil

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June 2012