

Division(s):

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

18 SEPTEMBER 2013

FINAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13

Report by Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer

Introduction

1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require the Statement of Accounts 2012/13 to be considered by a committee of the Council by 30 September 2013 and, following that consideration, to be approved by a resolution of that committee. The regulations also require that, following approval, the Statement of Accounts is signed and dated by the chairman of the committee approving the accounts. The Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer must re-certify the Statement of Accounts before the committee approves it.
2. The Statement of Accounts presented for the Audit & Governance Committee's approval reflects minor amendments made following the audit of the accounts. Ernst & Young LLP's annual governance reports set out the audit issues identified during the course of the main accounts audit and the audit of the Pension Fund accounts and an explanation of the amendments made is provided below.

Main Accounts

3. Note 9 *Partnership schemes under section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006* has been amended so that the figures disclosed are consistent with those reported in Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust's accounts. Gross income figures have been adjusted for net underspends or overspends on the pooled budget accounts.
4. The wording in Note 12 *Audit and Inspection Fee* has been amended to clarify that the reduction in cost relates to a reduction in the scale fee charged rather than a reduction in the work undertaken.
5. Note 14 *Exit Packages* has been amended to correct the number of packages disclosed in the first band (£0 - £19,999) which was miscalculated due to a formulae error, and to put exit packages over £100,000 into the right band.
6. An additional *contingent liability* has been disclosed in Note 66 following new information that has come to light since the accounts were completed in June 2013.
7. Note 67 *Post Balance Sheet Events* has been revised to reflect that sixteen schools have now converted to academies during 2013/14 and the value of property, plant and equipment assets transferring has risen to £38m.

The Local Government Pension Fund Accounts

8. The narrative in Note 5 *Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty* has been amended, minor adjustments have been made to Note 16 *Related Party Transactions* and Note 24 *Additional Voluntary Contributions* has been updated with more recent information from the AVC provider.

Letters of Representation

9. Auditing standards require Ernst & Young LLP to obtain representations from management on certain matters material to their audit opinion. This year the auditors require separate letters of representation for the Oxfordshire County Council accounts and the Local Government Pension Fund accounts. The Audit & Governance Committee is required to consider and approve the letters of representation before they are signed by the Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer and the Chairman of the Committee.

Audit Opinion

10. At the time of submitting this report the wording for the draft audit opinions on the main accounts, the Local Government Pension Fund accounts and the arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness have not been received. These are therefore not yet included in the Statement of Accounts 2012/13.

Conclusion

11. No material errors were identified during the audit. Changes to the accounts relate to minor amendments to notes to the accounts.

RECOMMENDATION

12. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (i) **Consider and approve the Statement of Accounts for 2012/13;**
 - (ii) **Consider and approve the Letter of Representation 2012/13 for the Oxfordshire County Council accounts;**
 - (iii) **Consider and approve the Letter of Representation 2012/13 for the Oxfordshire Pension Fund accounts.**

SUE SCANE
Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer

Background Papers: Nil

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