

By: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and
Procurement – John Simmonds
Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement
– Andy Wood

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 24 July 2014

Subject: DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2013-14

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report asks Members to consider and approve the
draft Statement of Accounts for 2013-14.

FOR DECISION AND APPROVAL

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The draft Statement of Accounts of the County Council for 2013-14 follows this report. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 state that;

...no later than 30th September in the year immediately following the end of the year to which the statement relates

i) consider either by way of a Committee or by the Members meeting as a whole the Statement of Accounts;

ii) following that consideration, approve the Statement of Accounts by a resolution of that Committee or meeting;

iii) following approval, ensure that the Statement of Accounts is signed and dated by the person presiding at the Committee or meeting at which that approval was given;

- 1.2 The audit is now complete and we therefore recommend that the Accounts are finalised and signed today, as this will free up finance staff to move forward with new year tasks and projects. The Auditors have given an unqualified opinion.

- 1.3 Letters of Representation are provided in connection with the audits of the financial statements for the Council and the Kent Superannuation Fund; and these are required to be formally minuted by the Committee that they are approved.

- 1.4 Members are encouraged to scrutinise these Accounts and ask questions.

- 1.5 If any Member of this Committee has any questions in relation to these Accounts, then they can be raised prior to the meeting of the Committee with Emma Feakins, Chief Accountant, who will be happy to meet with any

Member or group of Members to give a more detailed explanation of these Accounts. Alternatively, questions can of course be asked at this meeting.

2. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS - CONTENTS

- 2.1 The content and format of the Accounts is as prescribed in the Accounting Code of Practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and is known as the Code.
- 2.2 The Statement of Accounts for 2013-14 is the fourth to be prepared on an International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) basis.
- 2.3 The remainder of Section 2 of this report highlights the key facts, figures and issues from the attached draft Accounts.

Foreword Pages 3-6

- 2.4 The details of the revenue outturn are shown on Pages 3 and 4. This shows an underspend of £10m against the non-schools budgets. Details of underspends within the directorates have been detailed in the monitoring reports throughout the year and were reported in the Final Outturn report which went to Cabinet on 7 July.
- 2.5 There has been no change in the level of general revenue reserves and the balance stands at £31.7m. This is deemed to be an acceptable level of general reserves based on the current budget, and the Council's identified risks, by the Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement.
- 2.6 Capital expenditure excluding that incurred by schools under devolved arrangements and the Property Enterprise Fund was £53.038m less than the latest revised cash limits. Of this, £53.337m reflected re-phasing of capital expenditure plans across all services and £0.299m was due to variations on a small number of projects. These unspent capital resources will be carried forward into 2014-15 and beyond in order to accommodate the revised profiles of capital expenditure.
- 2.7 The 2013-14 IAS 19 report shows an increase in the Pensions Reserve deficit of £135m. See Paragraph 2.16 for more information.

Statement of Responsibilities Page 7

- 2.8 This statement sets out the respective responsibilities of the Authority and the Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement in relation to the production of the final accounts.

Financial Statements Pages 8-13

Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)

- 2.9 This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and unusable reserves. The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Usable reserves have increased by £10m in 2013-14.
- 2.10 The MiRS is a summary of the changes that have taken place in the bottom half of the Balance Sheet over the financial year. It does this by analysing:
- i) The increase or decrease in the net worth of the authority as a result of incurring expenses and generating income.
 - ii) The increase or decrease in the net worth of the authority as a result of movements in the fair value of its assets.
 - iii) Movements between reserves to increase or reduce the resources available to the authority according to statutory provisions.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

- 2.11 The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) consolidates all the gains and losses experienced by an authority during the financial year. As authorities do not have any equity in their Balance Sheets, these gains and losses should reconcile to the overall movement in net worth.
- 2.12 The CIES has two sections:
- i) Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services – the increase or decrease in the net worth of the authority as a result of incurring expenses and generating income.
 - ii) Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure – shows any changes in net worth which have not been reflected in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. Examples include the increase or decrease in the net worth of the authority as a result of movements in the fair value of its assets and actuarial gains or losses on pension assets and liabilities.

Balance Sheet

- 2.13 The Balance Sheet summarises the Council's financial position at 31 March each year. In its top half it contains the assets and liabilities that it

holds or has accrued with other parties. As local authorities do not have equity, the bottom half is comprised of reserves that show the disposition of an authority's net worth, falling into two categories:

- i) Usable Reserves, which include the revenue and capital resources available to meet future expenditure (e.g. the General Fund Balance and the Capital Receipts Reserve), and
- ii) Unusable Reserves, which include:
 - unrealised gains and losses, particularly in relation to the revaluation of property, plant and equipment (e.g. the Revaluation Reserve);
 - adjustment accounts that absorb the difference between the outcome of applying proper accounting practices and the requirements of statutory arrangements for funding expenditure (e.g. the Capital Adjustment Account and the Pensions Reserve).

- 2.14 Long-term assets have decreased by £108.1m. The majority of this decrease relates to the write out of schools that have changed status; £63.1m relates to schools that have transferred to academy status and £35m relates to schools transferring to foundation status.
- 2.15 Long-term investments have increased by £22.2m. £15.3m is for bonds and pooled fund deposits which mature after 12 months and £6.9m relates to equity investments.
- 2.16 Long term liabilities have increased by £91.2m. £135m of this is due to an increase in the liability related to defined benefit pensions schemes under IAS 19 reporting. The note to explain the increase can be found in Note 36 on page 86 of the Accounts. This increase is offset by a decrease of £26.4m of Long Term Borrowing and a decrease in PFI lease liabilities of £5m. Note 37 explaining the breakdown of borrowing can be found on page 92 of the Accounts..
- 2.17 Our net worth has decreased from £57m to -£157.9m. This is primarily due to the decrease in balances held for property, plant and equipment as explained in paragraph 2.15 (and page 36 of the Accounts) and the increase in the pensions liability explained on paragraph 2.16) and page 86 of the Accounts.

Cash Flow Statement

- 2.18 This statement summarises the changes in cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value and they account for £100m of the £107.4m on the balance sheet.

Significant Notes to the Accounts pages 14-102

Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations

- 2.19 This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Council in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Council to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. It also supports the line in the MIRS and provides more detail on how this is split across usable and unusable reserves.

Officers Remuneration

- 2.20 Note 6 on pages 19-27 provides details of officers' remuneration over £50,000 and details on exit packages in bands on £20,000 split between compulsory redundancy and other departures.

Deposits in Icelandic banks

- 2.21 Note 8 on page 28 sets out the latest schedule of anticipated timings of repayments in relation to the Icelandic banks. Under regulations we have had to write the net impairment charge of £1.7m to the general fund. This was £1.2m of impairment plus £0.5m of accrued interest. Under the latest CIPFA LAAP Bulletin on Iceland Accounting our accounts show that of the £50m deposited we are accounting to recover approximately 98%. The most recent information is that a full 100% recovery from Heritable will now be made with the final dividend paid in the autumn and Landsbanki (LBI hf) is still forecast to recover 100%. So a full recovery is now anticipated.

Property, Plant and Equipment

- 2.22 Note 15 on pages 36-47 shows the movements on these assets, which have slightly reduced in value (relatively) from £2.01bn to £1.86bn.

Reserves

- 2.23 Details of reserves can be found in the following notes, Usable Reserves in Note 20 which also includes earmarked reserves, Unusable Reserves in Note 21, and earmarked reserves in Note 22 on pages 68-73. Earmarked reserves have decreased by £2.9m, the remainder of usable reserves have increased by £12.7m and unusable reserves by £224.7m (£125m of which relates to the Capital Adjustment Account).

Amounts Reported for Resource Allocation Decisions

- 2.24 Note 31 on pages 79-82 is also known as the segmental reporting note and is based on our management structure. It shows outturn information reported by directorate which is then reconciled to the cost of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Pension Fund Accounts pages 103-129

- 2.25 Pages 103-129 contain a summarised extract of a more detailed statement produced for the Pension Fund.

Auditor's Report Pages 130-133

- 2.26 Within the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 we are required to open the accounts for public inspection. This enables any member of the public to inspect the Accounts, ask questions and to request copies of related documents where appropriate. The period of inspection for the 2013-14 Accounts commenced on the 16th June and ended on the 11th July.
- 2.27 The external audit provides an independent opinion as to whether the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Kent County Council at 31 March 2014 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2014. The audit started in June and finished 11th July. Following approval of the Accounts by Members, the external auditor will issue their signed opinion. The Accounts are expected to be formally signed today (24th July), with an unqualified opinion.

Annual Governance Statement Pages 134-143

- 2.28 The Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions including the management of risk. The Accounts include an Annual Governance Statement on pages 134 to 143 which confirms how the Council has discharged this responsibility, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit regulations 2011. The Statement confirms that, during the financial year 2013-14, overall Corporate Governance arrangements and internal controls in the Authority were in place. The Statement also identifies some governance issues that will be addressed in the current year.
- 2.29 CIPFA requires that the content of the Annual Governance Statement be approved by the Governance and Audit Committee. In approving the Statement, Members should consider the section headed "Review of Effectiveness", which summarises the assurances used to assess the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework. Members should also take into account the work of the Committee over the last year, any other information of which they are aware, as well as the reports included on this agenda, namely:

- the work of Internal Audit, as summarised in the Annual Report;
- the Treasury Management Annual Report;
- the conclusions from the external auditors.

Glossary

2.30 A glossary of some of the terms used within the Accounts is provided on pages 144-145.

Other Issues

2.31 Each year, our external auditors have to produce an Audit Findings Report setting-out how the audit went operationally, highlighting areas of concern, and listing all errors that they have found in the Accounts that we have decided not to adjust in the final Accounts. The list is known as the Statement of Unadjusted Errors, and the report is formally known as the ISA260. This report is provided at agenda item 9 of this Committee.

3. RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to:

3.1 Consider and approve the Statement of Accounts for 2013-14.

3.2 Approval of the Letters of Representation

3.3 Note the recommendations made in the Annual Findings Report.

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