

By: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Traded Services – Peter Oakford
Head of Finance Operations – Cath Head

To: Governance and Audit Committee – 24 July 2019

Subject: DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2018-19

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report asks Members to consider and approve the draft Statement of Accounts for 2018-19.

FOR DECISION AND APPROVAL

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The draft Statement of Accounts of the County Council for 2018-19 follows this report. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 state that;

...no later than 31st July 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) approve the Statement of Accounts by a resolution of that Committee or meeting;

iii) 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 2018-19 is 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.

Narrative Pages 3-15

- 2.4 The narrative provides clarification on the relationship between the Statement of Accounts and other financial information that the Council reports on externally. The 2018-19 narrative provides information on the funding strategy applied during 2018-19 and the direction of travel for 2019-20 onwards.
- 2.5 The details of the revenue outturn are shown on Pages 9 to 11. This shows an underspend of £7.3m 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 24 June. After committed roll forwards and bids approved by Cabinet on 24 June, the resulting underspend was £1.1m.
- 2.6 The level of general revenue reserves remains at £37.2m. The Corporate Director of Finance deemed this to be an acceptable level of general reserves based on the current budget, and the Council's identified risks.
- 2.7 Capital expenditure excluding that incurred by schools under devolved arrangements was £130.3m less than the latest revised cash limits. Of this, £128.7m reflects re-phasing of capital expenditure plans across all services and £1.6m was due to variations on a small number of projects. These unspent capital resources will be carried forward into 2019-20 and beyond in order to accommodate the revised profiles of capital expenditure.
- 2.8 The 2018-19 IAS 19 report shows a decrease in the Pensions Reserve deficit of £94m. See Paragraph 2.16 for more information.

Statement of Responsibilities Page 16

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

Financial Statements Pages 17-22

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2.10 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.

2.11 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.

Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)

2.12 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 £112m in 2018-19. The main movements are:

	£m
Unapplied Capital Grants, reflecting re-phasing of the projects these grants are funding	77
Capital Receipt Reserve	11
Local Taxation Equalisation Reserve, to smooth impact of changes in Council Tax discounts, fund joint work with district councils and smooth impact of fluctuations in Business Rates baseline.	6
Rolling Budget Reserve, reflecting roll forwards to cover re-scheduling of revenue expenditure from previous years	10

2.13 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.

Balance Sheet

2.14 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).

2.15 Short terms investments have increased by £106m. The majority of the increase relates to short term deposits with other local authorities following the receipt of additional grant monies during 2018-19 and in anticipation of these funds being required in early 2019-20.

2.16 Long term liabilities have decreased by £102m. £94m of this is due to a decrease in the liability related to defined benefit pensions schemes under IAS 19 reporting. The note to explain the increase can be found in Note 38 from page 106 of the Accounts.

2.17 Our net worth has increased from a surplus of £175m to a surplus of £386m. This is mainly due to the increase in short term investments and the decrease in the pensions liability explained in paragraphs 2.16 and 2.17 respectively.

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.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis

- 2.19 The Expenditure and Funding Analysis detailed on pages 23 to 24 shows how the Council's expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the directorates. It also shows how the annual expenditure is used and funded from resources by the Council compared with the resources consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

Significant Notes to the Accounts pages 26-130

Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations

- 2.20 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

- 2.21 Note 6 on pages 30-40 provides details of officers' remuneration over £50,000 and details on exit packages in bands of £20,000 split between compulsory redundancy and other departures.

Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

- 2.22 Note 10a on pages 42 to 45 provides an analysis and explanation of the main adjustments to the Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund and Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis that were set out in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis explained in paragraph 2.19.

Property, Plant and Equipment

- 2.23 Note 17 on pages 52-68 shows the movements on these assets, which have decreased in value (relatively) from £2.52bn to £2.49bn.

Reserves

- 2.24 Details of reserves can be found in the following notes, usable reserves in Note 23 which also include earmarked reserves, unusable reserves in Note 24, and earmarked reserves in Note 25. Earmarked reserves have increased by £26.8m; the remainder of usable reserves have increased by £85.3m and unusable reserves have increased by £98.1m.

Prior Period Adjustment pages 131 – 133

- 2.25 This is a detailed note of the changes that were made to the financial statements for 2016-17 and 2017-18 as a result of corrections relating to an error on the treatment of financial asset fair value gains or losses and the treatment of Growing Places funding. The overall impact on the Balance Sheet is -£5.9m

Pension Fund Accounts pages 134-161

- 2.26 Pages 134-161 contain a summarised extract of a more detailed statement produced for the Pension Fund.

Auditor's Report Pages 162-168

- 2.27 Within the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 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 2018-19 Accounts commenced on the 3rd June and ended on the 12th July.

- 2.28 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 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2019. The audit started in June and finished 13th 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 169-179

- 2.29 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 169 to 179 which confirms how the Council has discharged this responsibility, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit regulations 2015. The Statement confirms that, during the financial year 2018-19, 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.

- 2.30 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

- 2.31 A glossary of some of the terms used within the Accounts is provided on pages 180-181.

Other Issues

- 2.32 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 Audit Adjustments, 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 2018-19.
- 3.2 Approval of the Letters of Representation
- 3.3 Note the recommendations made in the Annual Findings Report.

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