

**WILTSHIRE COUNCIL
AUDIT**

29 JULY 2015

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/2015

Purpose of Report

1. To present the draft Statement of Accounts in respect of the 2014/2015 financial year for Wiltshire Council.

Policy Considerations

2. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts and to arrange for them to be audited and reported in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, and the 2014/2015 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom, issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Background and Introduction

3. The Code of Audit Practice (issued by the Audit Commission) and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom set out the requirements for the production and publication of the annual Statement of Accounts.
4. The draft Statement of Accounts are required to be certified by the Chief Finance Officer within three months of the financial year end (by 30 June 2015). At Wiltshire Council the Chief Finance Officer is the Associate Director, Finance.
5. The draft Statement of Accounts are then subject to external audit by the Council's appointed auditors (KPMG) before the final set is brought to the Audit Committee for final approval by 30 September 2015. This adoption process ensures that there is external independent scrutiny of the figures in the Statement of Accounts before they are brought to the Audit Committee. Under the constitution, in Wiltshire the Statement of Accounts are adopted by the Audit Committee.
6. KPMG are required to report on any material amendments from the draft Statement of Accounts as part of the submission of the final version to the Audit Committee.
7. The Draft Statement of Accounts is attached as Appendix A.

Key Issues Arising

8. The draft Statement of Accounts were signed by the Chief Finance Officer on 4 June 2015, well ahead of the statutory deadline of 30 June 2015. KPMG started the year end audit on 8 June 2015.
9. The final outturn on the General Revenue Fund reported to Cabinet on 16 June 2015 was an underspend of £0.278 million. This resulted in a total return to reserves for the General Revenue Fund of £0.282 million, after £0.004 million extra Government grant. Further details of this were reported to Cabinet on 16 June 2015 in the Revenue Outturn Report.
10. The Housing Revenue Account outturn position is an overspend of £0.056 million, which gives a final return to reserves of £1.266 million.
11. The Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement summarises the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from local taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations. This is different from the accounting cost. The Movement in Reserves Statement reflects the true cost to council tax payers of services provided.
12. The deficit on the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is adjusted by various technical adjustments between the accounting basis and funding basis under regulations, as well as taking into account transfers to/from earmarked reserves. In this way, the expenditure in the outturn report reconciles to the deficit on provision of services. More details are given in notes 9 and 10 of the Statement of Accounts.

Risk Assessment

13. None.

Equality and Diversity Impact of the Proposal

14. None.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

15. None.

Financial Implications

16. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications

17. None.

