

Regulatory and Audit Committee

Title:	Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2013
Date:	24 September 2013
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Electoral divisions affected:	All

Summary

To present Grant Thornton's draft report on any significant findings from its audit of the Council's Statement of Accounts and Pension Fund.

On 27 June 2013 this Committee received the Unaudited Statement of Accounts for the Council and Pension Fund. At that stage the audit of the accounts had not commenced. Grant Thornton has now substantially completed this work, with work on Bank and Investment confirmations, and Fees & Charges still outstanding. The Audit Findings Report and Letters of Representation are currently being finalised and will follow this report. Representatives from Grant Thornton will provide an update on their findings at the meeting.

Recommendation

That the Committee considers its response to the matters raised by Grant Thornton and agrees that the Statement of Accounts for Buckinghamshire County Council and Pension Fund for the financial year ended 31 March 2013 can be signed by the Chairman of this Committee.

That the Committee approves the Letters of Representation (to follow) on behalf of the Council and Pension Fund and agrees that it can be signed by the Chairman of this Committee.

That the Committee agrees the response to the proposed action plan within the Audit Findings Reports (to follow)



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County Council

Five changes to the accounts relating to points of disclosure have arisen to date as a consequence of the audit and been agreed with Grant Thornton. These relate to:

- Note 15 Fair value of Investments
- Note 41 Aged debt
- Note 26 Reconciliation of Income and Expenditure reported in the Consolidated Income & Expenditure Statement
- Note 12 Disclosure of valuers' names and qualifications
- Note 32 Disclosure of the audit fee

There was no overall impact on the General Fund balance. All non-trivial errors that have been identified to date have been adjusted for within the Accounts. A copy of the Statement of Accounts as amended and to be approved is included as part of the background papers. It should be noted that the audit has not yet concluded and further adjustments may be identified.

Pension Fund

Grant Thornton has now substantially completed work on the audit of the Pension Fund accounts, with work on Investments and the Annual Report still outstanding. Four changes to the accounts relating to points of disclosure have arisen to date as a consequence of the audit and been agreed with Grant Thornton. These relate to:

- Note 2 Accounting Policies and Critical Judgements
- Note 4 Transfer Values
- Note 13 Additional Financial Risk Management
- Note 16 Taxes on Income

During the audit Grant Thornton also identified some narrative presentation and disclosure issues in the financial statements and recommended additional disclosures to enhance the presentation of the financial statements. The majority of the recommended amendments were agreed and applied by the Fund. It should be noted that the audit has not yet concluded and further adjustments may be identified. The Statement of Accounts, letter of representation and Grant Thornton's Audit Findings Report for the Pension Fund will be reported to the Pension Fund Committee on 24 October 2013.

Supporting information to include the following if a decision is being requested:

Resource implications

The overall position on the General Fund reserve is an increase of £3.818m to £39.679m. Earmarked reserves have increased to £105.014m. The General Fund balance is expected to reduce to £30.6m by 31 March 2014.

Legal implications

None

Other implications/issues

None

Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views (if relevant)

None

Background Papers

Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2013 – BCC and Pension Fund

Letter of Representation – BCC (to follow)

Letter of Representation – Pension Fund (to follow)

Draft Audit Findings Report 2012/13 - BCC (provided by Grant Thornton to follow)

Draft Audit Findings Report 2012/13 - Pension Fund (provided by Grant Thornton to follow)
