

Governance & Audit Committee

16 July 2021

Statement of Accounts 2020/21

Recommendations / key decisions required:

- 1) To receive the Carmarthenshire County Council Statement of Accounts 2020/21
- 2) To retrospectively approve the movements to and from the Earmarked Reserves. In particular the transfers to:
 - Corporate Retirement Fund
 - Major Development Fund
 - MEP Capital Funding
 - City Deal
- 3) To retrospectively approve the creation of the following reserves:
 - COVID19 Hardship
 - Economic Recovery
 - County Council Election Costs
 - Nantycaws Recycling Centre
 - Schools HWB Sustainability Scheme
 - School Organisation Fund

Reasons:

To comply with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended 2018).

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec. Board Decision Required NO

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr. David Jenkins

Directorate: Corporate Services

Designations:

Tel: 01267 224886

Name of Head of Service:
Randal Hemingway

Head of Financial Services

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Report Author:
Randal Hemingway

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Governance & Audit Committee
16 July 2021

Statement of Accounts 2020/21

The Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 brings together all the financial transactions of the Authority for the year, and also details the Authority's assets and liabilities as at the 31st March 2021.

The Authority has maintained the overall Council Fund net expenditure within budget during 2020/21, and you will note the following results are reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement:

Council Fund (Generally available for new expenditure), transfer to balances £814k.
Balances held by schools under local management schemes, transfer to balances £9.267m.
Housing Revenue Account, decrease in balance £1.808m.

As a result of substantial additional grant funding received from Welsh Government before the year-end, plus additional COVID19 related costs and lost income being largely refunded under the Welsh Government hardship scheme, services being paused or reduced due to lockdown measures and staffing vacancies during the year, this has resulted in an outturn position which has allowed the Authority to transfer £814k to its general reserves.

In the preparation of these accounts there have been movements to and from earmarked reserves. In particular transfers to:

The Corporate Retirement Fund: £1.009m to support the Authority's redundancy and early retirement policy, enabling the Authority to provide for the actuarial strain on the pension Fund which arises from any early retirement or redundancy.

Major Development Fund: Transfer of £1.125m to support major developments in the future.

MEP Capital Funding: £2.958m set aside in the 2020/21 budget to meet the cost of prudential borrowing to finance the Modernising Education Provision programme. This will now be utilised in 2021/22.

The City Deal Reserve: Transfer £2.5m to meet potential future expenditure/liabilities in respect of the development of Carmarthenshire County Council City deal projects.

Members are therefore asked to retrospectively approve these movements and approve the creation of the COVID19 Hardship, Economic Recovery, County Council Election Costs, Nantycaws Recycling Centre, Schools HBW Sustainability Scheme and School Organisation reserves.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Randal Hemingway**

Head of Financial Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	YNONE

2. Legal

Compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2014 (as amended 2018).

3. Finance

Overall the Authority's Council Fund net expenditure for the year was below the original budget, resulting in a transfer of £814k to balances on the Council Fund and a transfer of £1,808m from the Housing Revenue Account balance.

At the balance sheet date, the Council Fund General Balances stood at £12.034m, the Housing Revenue Account £19.444m and the balances held by schools under LMS £7.266m.

The reserves created and included within the Statement of Accounts have been set up to meet future liabilities.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Randal Hemingway

Head of Financial Services

1.Scrutiny Committee – Not applicable

2.Local Member(s) - Not applicable

3.Community / Town Council – Not applicable

4.Relevant Partners – Not applicable

5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Not applicable

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

Include any observations here

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended 2018)		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen
Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2020/21		Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen