



**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No 8**

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING: 30th June 2014**

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**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2013/2014 (SUBJECT TO AUDIT)**

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE OFFICER**

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**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide members with the certified copy of the Authority's Statement of Accounts 2013/2014 (Subject to Audit) – (Appendix A), on or before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 - (Copy to follow). Any late adjustments to the accounts will, if necessary, be tabled at the meeting.
- 1.2 To provide members with the draft Letters of Assurance required by the external auditor as part of the final accounts process.

**2. Description of Decision**

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to note the Statement of Accounts 2013/2014 (Subject to Audit).
- 2.2 Members are also requested to approve the contents of the Letter of Assurance from those charged with governance (Appendix B) and, to note the Letter of Assurance from those charged with discharging management processes and responsibilities (Appendix C).

**3. Introduction**

- 3.1 The Authority has complied with the financial reporting requirements set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, which means that the accounts subject to audit need only be certified by the Relevant Finance Officer by 30<sup>th</sup> June of each year. The accounts, once audited however, must still be approved by members of this Committee at its planned meeting in September, as the audited accounts of the Authority must be formally approved before 30<sup>th</sup> September of each year in accordance with the regulations.
- 3.2 The accounts also comply with complex International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which were introduced from 2010/2011. In an attempt to help make the accounts more meaningful to members, a Summary paper (Appendix D) and Handout (Appendix E) are to be tabled at the meeting as in previous years.



3.3 Quality checks continue on the accounts right up until the time they are approved by this committee in order to ensure the Accounts presented subject to audit reflect the most accurate and best set of accounts possible. Each year a set of presentational adjustments are provided for approval along with the accounts. Appendix F sets out the proposed changes, if any, where appropriate.

#### **4. Statement of Accounts 2013/2014 (Subject to Audit)**

4.1 The financial statements for 2013/2014 subject to audit (Appendix A) are to be sent out separately to members for their information and will be certified as at 30<sup>th</sup> June by the Finance Officer in accordance with the regulations.

4.2 Members should note that the Foreword by the Finance Officer on pages 5 to 14 of the Accounts provides a helpful summary of the main financial issues for 2013/2014 for the Authority and is there to help put the accounts, which are very complex in nature, into context.

4.3 Members, should they wish, are also able to ask questions on the accounts at this stage before the audit has been completed, although they will have a further opportunity in September when the audited accounts are to be formally considered for approval.

#### **5. Reasons for Decision**

5.1 To note the Statement of Accounts 2013/2014 (subject to audit).

5.2 To approve the contents of the Letter of Assurance from those charged with Governance and, to note the Letter of Assurance from those charged with discharging management processes and responsibilities.

#### **6. Alternative Options**

6.1 No alternatives are submitted for Members consideration.