



JOINT COMMITTEE – 21st SEPTEMBER 2012

AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/2012

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report the communications received from the External Auditors concerning the financial statements for 2011/2012.
- 1.2 To provide the Audited Statement of Accounts for 2011/2012 for approval by Members.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE DECISION

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Note that the External Auditors, BDO LLP (Chartered Accountants) have indicated at the time of writing this report that they intend to issue an unqualified audited Annual Return for 2011/2012. The audited Annual Return will be tabled at the meeting as Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Approve the Audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2012 (Appendix 2).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Smaller relevant bodies in England must complete an annual return summarising their annual activities at the completion of each financial year in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. Members are responsible for ensuring that financial management is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control.
- 3.2 A smaller relevant body includes Joint Committees which now have gross income or gross expenditure levels below £6.5 million for the financial year in question (2011/2012) as well as either of the two immediately

preceding years (2009/2010 and 2010/2011). This regime applies to the Joint Committee.

3.3 The Audit Commission was replaced by BDO LLP (Chartered Accountants) from 1st April 2010, as the Joint Committee's external auditors, and they are required to report on the final accounts by 30th September of each year. The Joint Committee has received an unqualified audit report.

4. KEY MESSAGES

4.1 The Auditor's communication (Smaller Bodies in England Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2012) is to be tabled separately as Appendix 1 and is expected in summary, to show that:

- The External Auditors have issued an unqualified audit opinion. See Section 3 of the Smaller Bodies Annual Return
- There were no changes required to the Statement of Accounts and Annual Return and there were no misstatements identified
- The External Auditor has not identified any issues in relation to the qualitative aspects of the Joint Committee's accounting practices and financial reporting

4.2 The above key messages are likely to be confirmed on receipt of the audited Annual Return for 2011/2012.

Malcolm Page
Treasurer