

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019/20

Summary: To approve the Board's annual accounts for 2019/20.

Recommendations: That Board:

- a) notes the Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2020;
- b) approves the Statement of Accounts 2019/20; and
- c) approves the Accounting Statements 2019/20.

Authors: Andy Parsons (Chief Executive) and David Shelmerdine (Finance Officer).

Key Issues

1. The attached papers set out details of the Board's financial performance in 2019/20.
2. The figures show a very positive result for the year, recognising in particular the significant grant award received from Network Rail to finance future Board initiatives.
3. At its meeting in May 2020, the Executive Committee reviewed all aspects of these reports, and resolved to recommend them for approval by Board in June.

Background

4. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Board to maintain its accounts in accordance with "proper practices". Since 2018/19, Conservation Boards have been specifically covered by the formal guidance issued annually by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance "*Governance and Accountability for Local Councils – A Practitioners Guide*" which sets out the proper practices required.
5. As part of the governance process, Board should review the organisation's year-end bank reconciliation. This is attached at Appendix A.

Statement of Accounts 2019/20

6. The Board's draft Statement of Accounts for the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 is attached at Appendix B. This has been prepared in accordance with the National Park model, so as to facilitate comparability between organisations.
7. The Income and Expenditure Account shows the costs of providing services across the various activities and projects that the Board has supported during the year, and how these projects were supported from grants and income.

8. Gross income for the year was £1,459,727 (2018/19: £1,065,774), whilst expenditure was £989,479 (2018/19: £941,720). Taken together, these items show a net surplus for the year of £470,248 (2018/19: a surplus of £124,054). The significant increase in income, and surplus, results primarily from the additional £500k in grant which was received from Network Rail in April 2019.
9. Several of the allocations to the National Park themes show significant variance between years. This has resulted from the re-categorisation of some staff time, central and project costs in 2019/20. Detailed analysis has shown that the current allocations present a clearer and more meaningful picture.
10. The Balance Sheet summarises the Board's overall financial position as at 31 March 2020. It shows total reserves of £735,504, consisting of £664,536 in Restricted Funds and £70,968 in more "useable" funds.

Accounting Statements 2019/20

11. Appendix C summarises the Board's 2019/20 accounts in mandatory format, for external audit review. As required by the relevant guidance, these summary figures also include the Board's long-term investment transactions as income and expenditure during the year.
12. These Accounting Statements form Section 2 of the Board's statutory Annual Governance and Accountability Return and will be published on the Board's web-site in July 2020.

Supporting Papers:

- Appendix A** - Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2020
- Appendix B** - Statement of Accounts 2019/20
- Appendix C** - Accounting Statements 2019/20