

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND COUNCILS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ALL-MEMBER MEETING**



Date: 27 June 2019
 Subject: **Review of the year and annual accounts 2018/19**
 Report of: Director, South East England Councils

Recommendations:

The Executive is asked to:

- i) Consider South East England Councils' achievements in the 'Highlights 2018-19' annual review, and how this could be used to promote the work of the organisation and inform the forthcoming review of the Business Plan.
 - ii) Note the summary of accounts for 2018/19
 - iii) Record thanks to Surrey County Council for hosting South East England Councils
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1. Highlights of 2018/19

1.1. Each year South East England Councils publishes an annual review in the form of a highlights report. This attached report summarises an impressive programme of activity across a broad range of subjects, notably:

- influencing decision makers
- Local Government funding
- Housing & Planning
- infrastructure
- the economy
- skills
- Health & Social Care
- working with London

1.2 It also summarises the work of the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration which provides invaluable support to Councils' work with asylum seekers, refugees and migrant children. The Migration Partnership is a Home Office funded service with its own governance and reporting arrangements but comes within the auspices of South East England Councils.

2. Financial report 2018/19

2.1 The 2018/19 final accounts show expenditure for the year at £249,445. Expenditure was funded by income and the standing agreement to draw on reserves. The use of reserves in 2018/19 was £47,521.

2.2 There was an underspending of £24,755 which together with an over-achievement of income of £9,434, meant that the use of reserves was £34,134 less than planned and £19,307 less than the previous year. Reserves at 31 March 2019 were £479,130.

2.3 Accounts prepared by an independent accountant (LK & Associates Ltd) have been reviewed by the Treasurer Cllr David Monk. The table below shows the profit and loss account for 2018/19 alongside a comparison with 2017/18. Copies of the full accounts are available and can be provided to Members on request.

South East England Councils - Profit & Loss account 2018/19

	31 March 2019		31 March 2018	
	£	£	£	£
Invoiced subscriptions	158,565		160,270	
Shared services	40,730		55,323	
Project/ conference contributions	-		1,066	
Sundry receipts	20		20	
Bank interest	2,609		3,084	
		201,924		219,763
Expenditure				
Rent	7,877		7,877	
Staff costs	196,673		230,176	
Travel	2,787		2,514	
Projects/ conferences	13,397		13,466	
Licences/ insurance	1,377		1,354	
Regular meetings	12,272		13,595	
IT/website	8,995		10,267	
Admin/ Office costs	3,177		4,452	
Accountancy	2,100		2,100	
Other professional fees	420		420	
<i>Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:</i>				
Computer equipment	370		370	
		249,445		286,591
Net loss/use of reserves		(47,521)		(66,828)

3. 2019/20 Budget

- 3.1 The Executive on 30 November 2018 agreed a budget for 2018/19 subject to decisions on staffing, and in particular the appointment of a new Director. Members subsequently decided to proceed with the appointment of a full-time Director on a fixed-term basis whose remit will include undertaking a review of the organisation's operations within the context of wider relationships within the South East.
- 3.2 The new Director took up the role on 3 June and is undertaking a review of the 2019/20 Budget. This will be reported to the Executive in September 2019.