

MEETING	Joint Planning Policy Committee
DATE	21 June 2013
TITLE	The Joint Committee's Final Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013
PURPOSE	To submit – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Revenue Income and Expenditure Account Report for 2012/13, and • The Official Return on the Accounts, duly certified, but pre-Audit
RECOMMENDATION	To receive and note the information
AUTHOR	Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance, Gwynedd Council

1. NEW FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 During 2012/13, it became apparent that there are specific accounting and audit reporting requirements for Joint Committees.
- 1.2 Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 states that a joint committee of two or more (local) authorities is a local government body, and Section 13 of the Act requires such bodies to maintain accounts subject to audit by an external auditor approved by the Auditor General for Wales.
- 1.3 Although they are not independent legal entities, for the purposes of keeping accounts and being audited, a joint committee is separately subject to the same regulations as other local councils.
- 1.4 Gwynedd Council is the 'lead' Council responsible for meeting the accounting and reporting responsibilities of Anglesey and Gwynedd's Joint Planning Policy Committee.
- 1.5 The Accounts and Audit (Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2010 require all Joint Committees to prepare year-end accounts, i.e. an income and expenditure account and a balance sheet.
- 1.6 The Joint Planning Policy Committee, due to its turnover not exceeding £1m is considered to be a "Minor Joint Committee".
- 1.7 A "Minor Joint Committee" is required to complete an official return for the Wales Audit Office, and that will be subject to a separate audit, but production of full statutory financial statements (complying with "IFRS" International Financial Reporting Standards) are not required.

1.8 This return was devised by the Wales Audit Office and is more straightforward (and less expensive) to produce than full statutory statements would be.

2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2012/13

2.1 **The Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2012/13 is submitted herewith as Appendix A(i).** Also submitted herewith are the equivalent accounts for 2011/12, which facilitate comparisons (Appendix A(ii)). All of these are in simple "outturn" format.

2.2 **The official return for 2012/13 is submitted herewith as Appendix B, duly completed and certified prior to audit, by the Responsible Financial Officer,** namely Gwynedd Council's Head of Finance (Dafydd L Edwards) as the Statutory Finance Officer for the Joint Committee.

2.3 These will be subject to imminent audit by the Wales Audit Office, and the Appointed Auditor (Anthony Barrett) will produce an "ISA 260" report (detailing the Wales Audit Office's main findings) for submission to the Joint Committee on 24 September 2013.

2.4 For a number of reasons there was slippage in the work programme which has resulted in an underspend during the 2012/13 financial year. This will have implications for both Councils regarding the 2013/14 financing arrangements.

3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 **The Joint Planning Policy Committee is asked to receive and note the information in the appendices, i.e. –**

- Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2012/13 – Appendix A(i)
- Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2011/12 – Appendix A(ii)
- Official Return for 2012/13 Audit – Appendix B