

MEETING	Joint Planning Policy Committee (Isle of Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council)
DATE	26 June 2015
TITLE	The Joint Committee's Final Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015
PURPOSE	To submit – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Revenue Income and Expenditure Account Report for 2014/15, and • The Official Return on the Accounts, duly certified, but pre-Audit
RECOMMENDATION	To receive and approve the accounts
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1. STATUTORY FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 As reported in previous years, 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 financial reporting responsibilities of Anglesey and Gwynedd's Joint Planning Policy Committee.
- 1.5 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require all Joint Committees to prepare year-end accounts. Where the turnover is less than £2.5m the joint committee is deemed to be a "small joint committee" and an annual return must be prepared in accordance with proper practices as stipulated by legislation.
- 1.6 That Annual Return will be subject to a separate audit by the Wales Audit Office.

2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2014/15

- 2.1 **The Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2014/15 is submitted herewith as Appendix A** in simple “outturn” format.
- 2.2 **The Official Annual Return for 2014/15 (prior to audit) is submitted herewith as Appendix B, duly completed and certified, 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). Should any amendments be necessary then a revised version will be presented to the Joint Committee meeting on 25 September before being certified by the Auditor prior to 30 September.
- 2.4 For a number of reasons there was slippage in the work programme which has resulted in the final expenditure for 2014/15 being below the original budgeted amount. This “underspend” has been put aside in an earmarked reserve and committed for expenditure in 2015/16.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Joint Planning Policy Committee is asked to receive and approve the information in the appendices, i.e. –
 - Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2014/15 – Appendix A
 - Official Annual Return for 2014/15 Audit (pre-audit) – Appendix B