



<b>MEETING</b>	GwE Joint Committee
<b>DATE</b>	14 July 2021
<b>TITLE</b>	The Joint Committee's Final Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To submit the Statement of Accounts, in the 'statutory' format, duly certified, but subject to audit
<b>RECCOMENDATION</b>	To receive and note the information
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance, Gwynedd Council

## **1. STATUTORY FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1.1 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 host Council responsible for meeting the accounting responsibilities and reporting on the financial matters of GwE's Joint Committee.

- 1.5 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 require all Joint Committees to prepare year-end accounts. Where the turnover exceeds £2.5million, a statement of accounts must be prepared in accordance with the CIPFA code for the Joint Committee.

## **2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2020/21**

- 2.1 Simple summary “outturn” report regarding the 2020/21 accounts were presented to the Joint Committee on 26 May 2021. That report was more useful for internal / management purposes, while the Statement of Accounts is more suited for external / governance purposes.
- 2.2 The final net underspend for 2020/21 is (£83,326). The “outturn” report presented to the Joint Committee on 26 May 2021 detailed the reasons for the net underspend and outlined the intended use of the balance.
- 2.3 **The Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 (subject to audit) is submitted herewith as Appendix A, duly certified** by Dafydd L Edwards, the Statutory Finance Officer for the Joint Committee. This statement is in a standard statutory format and is essential from a “governance” perspective.
- 2.4 The Statement of Accounts is already subject to an audit by Audit Wales, Gwynedd Council’s external auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales. Due to the crisis, Welsh Local Government audits will not be finalised until the Autumn. With regards to GwE’s Accounts, the auditors will then produce an “ISA 260” report, detailing Audit Wales’ main findings, and issued by the Wales Audit Office in the Auditor General’s name, to be presented to the GwE Joint Committee on 22 September 2021.

## **3. RECCOMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Joint Committee is asked to receive and note GwE’s Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 (subject to audit).

## **OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS**

### **Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

### **Statutory Finance Officer:**

Author of the report.