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MEETING	GwE Joint Committee
DATE	10 November 2021
TITLE	The Joint Committee's Final Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 and relevant Audit
PURPOSE	To submit – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Statement of Accounts post-audit; • The Wales Audit Office's report; • Letter of representation.
RECCOMENDATION	To receive and note the report on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales, approve the 2019/20 accounts, and authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of representation on behalf of the Joint Committee.
AUTHOR	Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance, Gwynedd Council

1. FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Members will recall that it was reported as follows to the 14 July meeting of GwE's Joint Committee:

- 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.
- 1.6 GwE's Statement of Accounts were subject to an audit by Audit Wales, external auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales.

2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2020/21

The Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2020/21 was submitted to the 26 May 2021 meeting of GwE's Joint Committee in "outturn" format, and the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 (subject to audit) in standard statutory format to the 14 July 2021 meeting.

3. AUDIT

It was noted at the time that these accounts would be subject to audit by Audit Wales, and the 'ISA 260' report is presented here by the Auditor General for Wales detailing Audit Wales' main findings. Paragraph 10 of the report states that "We intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion" on the financial statements 2020/21.

4. FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2020/21

The final version (post audit) of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 is also presented herewith. The issues raised as part of the audit have been outlined in Appendix 3 of the 'ISA260' report presented by Audit Wales on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales.

5. RECCOMENDATION

GwE's Joint Committee is asked to receive, note and approve the information in the appendices, i.e –

- 'ISA260' report by the Auditor General for Wales
- The Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 (post audit)

6. LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

The Chairman of the meeting, together with Gwynedd Council's Head of Finance (as Statutory Finance Officer for GwE), are asked to certify the Letter of Representation (Appendix 1 to the Auditor General for Wales' report) after the Joint Committee has considered the above.

7. AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES CERTIFICATE

After receiving the Letter of Representation duly certified by the Chairman and the Head of Finance, the Auditor General for Wales will issue the certificate on the accounts.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

Author of the report.