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<b>MEETING</b>	GwE Joint Committee
<b>DATE</b>	06 December 2023
<b>TITLE</b>	The Joint Committee's Final Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 and relevant Audit
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To submit – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Statement of Accounts post-audit;</li> <li>• The Wales Audit Office's report;</li> <li>• Letter of representation.</li> </ul>
<b>RECCOMENDATION</b>	To receive and note the report on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales, approve the 2022/23 accounts, and authorise the Chairperson to sign the letter of representation on behalf of the Joint Committee.
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Dewi Aeron Morgan, Head of Finance, Gwynedd Council

## 1. FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Members will recall that it was reported as follows to the 12 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 2014 (as amended) 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 2022/23**

The Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2022/23 was submitted to the 24 May 2023 meeting of GwE's Joint Committee in "outturn" format, and the Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 (subject to audit) in standard statutory format to the 12 July 2023 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 8 of the report states that "We intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion" on the financial statements 2022/23.

## **4. FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2022/23**

The final version (post audit) of the Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 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 2022/23 (post audit)

## **6. LETTER OF REPRESENTATION**

**The Chairperson 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 Chairperson 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