



<b>MEETING</b>	GwE Joint Committee
<b>DATE</b>	2 October 2024
<b>TITLE</b>	The Joint Committee's Final Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024
<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>	Dewi Aeron Morgan, Head of Finance, Cyngor Gwynedd

## 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 Cyngor Gwynedd 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.

## **2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2023/24**

- 2.1 A concise summary “outturn” report regarding the 2023/24 accounts was presented to the Joint Committee on 22 May 2024. 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 overspend for 2023/24 was £77,323. The outturn report presented to the Joint Committee on 22 May 2024 detailed the reasons for the net overspend.
- 2.3 **The Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 (subject to audit) is submitted herewith as Appendix A, duly certified** by Dewi Aeron Morgan, 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, Cyngor Gwynedd’s external auditors as appointed by the Auditor General for Wales. Following the audit, the auditors will then produce an “ISA 260” report, detailing Audit Wales’ main findings, and issued in the Auditor General’s name, to be presented to the GwE Joint Committee in the autumn.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Joint Committee is asked to receive and note GwE’s Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 (subject to audit).

## **OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS**

### **Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

### **Statutory Finance Officer:**

Author of the report.