

2. ACTION REQUIRED

- 2.1 The Audit and Governance Committee are “those charged with governance” on behalf of the Council, and approved the draft (subject to audit) statement of accounts prior to 2009/10. However, revisions in 2010 to the Accounts and Audit Regulations gave the Statutory Finance Officer (the Head of Finance in Gwynedd Council) responsibility for approving and certifying the draft accounts before the statutory deadline (15 June for the 2018/19 accounts).
- 2.2 There is no longer any requirement for elected members to approve the draft version of the Council’s Statement of Accounts, but this is presented to the Audit and Governance Committee FOR INFORMATION as good practice.
- 2.3 Doubtless, the committee’s members will wish to consider and understand the content now, in preparation for approving the final version in September, and to equip themselves with information to consider relevant risks and other matters being audited in their context.

3. SUBSEQUENT STEPS

- 3.1 Further to certification by the Head of Finance and consideration by the Audit and Governance Committee, the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts, with all other relevant statements are the subject of the annual audit process by Deloitte, Gwynedd Council’s external auditors, who were appointed by the Auditor General for Wales.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018, the Council has notified the public, on the Council’s website, that the accounts were available for inspection for a 20 working day period. As part of the audit process, local government electors also have the opportunity to question the external auditor about the Council’s accounts.
- 3.3 As noted in paragraph 1.4 (above), the final (audited) version of the Council’s 2018/19 Statement of Accounts will be submitted to the extraordinary meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee on 13 September 2019 FOR APPROVAL, along with a report on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales.
- 3.4 Subsequently, it is the Finance Department’s intention to provide a link to the final Statement to all elected members and all chief officers of the Council, as well as other interested parties.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is asked to receive and note the Council’s Statement of Accounts (subject to audit) for 2018/19.