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| <b>MEETING</b>        | GwE Joint Committee                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>DATE</b>           | 21 May 2025                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>TITLE</b>          | Final Accounts of the Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2025                                                                                                     |
| <b>PURPOSE</b>        | To introduce a procedure for the submission and approval of a Statement of Accounts, in a 'statutory' form, in the future.<br><br>Submit the Wales Audit Plan for 2024/25. |
| <b>RECOMMENDATION</b> | To receive and note the information                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>AUTHOR</b>         | Dewi Aeron Morgan, Cyngor Gwynedd Head of Finance                                                                                                                          |

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

- 1.1 There are specific reporting requirements regarding the accounting and auditing of the accounts of Joint Committees.
- 1.2 Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 states that a Joint Committee of more than one (local) authority is a local government body, and Section 13 of the Act requires such bodies to keep accounts which are the subject of an audit by an independent auditor approved by the Auditor General for Wales.
- 1.3 Although not an independent legal entity, for the purposes of bookkeeping and auditing, the Joint Committee itself is subject to the same regulations as other local councils.

- 1.4 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) require all Joint Committees to prepare annual accounts. Where the turnover exceeds £2.5million, a statement of accounts must be prepared in accordance with CIPFA code for the Joint Committee.
- 1.5 Gwynedd Council is the host Council responsible for carrying out the accounting and reporting responsibilities on the financial affairs of the GwE Joint Committee. As GwE comes to an end on 31 May 2025, the Joint Committee will not meet after this date, and therefore, the 2024/25 and 2025/26 accounts will be submitted to Gwynedd Council's Governance and Audit Committee for approval.

## **2. ACCOUNTS 2024/25**

- 2.1 A relevant concise "outturn" report on the 2024/25 accounts was submitted as a previous item to the Joint Committee on 21/05/2025. The report was more useful for internal/management purposes, whilst the Statement of Accounts is a statutory requirement and more suited for external/governance purposes.
- 2.2 We will present the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 (subject to audit), certified by Dewi Aeron Morgan, the Statutory Finance Officer for the Joint Committee, to Audit Wales in June 2025. This statement follows a statutory standard form.
- 2.3 The Statement of Accounts will be the subject of an audit by Audit Wales, Gwynedd Council's external auditors appointed by the Auditor General for Wales.
- 2.4 Following the audit, the auditors will produce an "ISA 260" report, detailing the main findings of Audit Wales, which will be published in the name of the Auditor General. It is intended to submit this report and the final accounts to the Governance and Audit Committee, Cyngor Gwynedd on 9 October 2025.

## **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The Joint Committee is required to accept and note the procedure to be followed for the submission and approval of the Statement of Accounts (subject to audit) for 2024/25 and 2025/26.
- 3.2 The Joint Committee is requested to accept and note the Audit Plan as submitted by the auditors of Audit Wales.

## **STATUTORY OFFICERS' VIEWS**

### **The Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from propriety perspective.

### **The Statutory Finance Officer:**

Author of the report.