

MEETING	GwE Joint Committee
DATE	23 September 2015
TITLE	The Joint Committee's Final Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 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.
RECOMMENDATION	To receive, note and approve the information before authorising the Chairman to certify the letter.
AUTHOR	Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance, Gwynedd Council

1. FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Members will recall that it was reported as follows to the 15 July 2015 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 and financial reporting responsibilities of GwE's Joint Committee.
- 1.5 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require all Joint Committees to prepare year-end accounts. Where the turnover exceeds £2.5m, a statement of accounts must be prepared in accordance with the CIPFA code for the Joint Committee.
- 1.6 GwE's Statement of Accounts will be subject to an audit by the Wales Audit Office, separate to their audit of Gwynedd Council's accounts.

2. ACCOUNTS FOR 2014/15

The Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for 2014/15 was submitted to the 15 July 2015 meeting of GwE's Joint Committee in simple "outturn" format, together with the Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 (pre-audit).

3. AUDIT

It was noted at the time that these accounts would be subject to audit by the Wales Audit Office, and the 'ISA 260' report is presented here by the Auditor General for Wales detailing the Wales Audit Office's main findings.

4. FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2014/15

The final version (post-audit) of the Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 is also presented herewith. The amendments since the pre-audit version have been outlined in Appendix 3 to the Wales Audit Office's 'ISA260' report.

5. RECOMMENDATION

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

- 'ISA260' report by the Wales Audit Office
- The Statement of Accounts for 2014/15 (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 Wales Audit Office's report) after the Joint Committee has considered the above.

7. CERTIFICATION BY THE APPOINTED AUDITOR

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.