



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

16th JUNE 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Matter for Information

Wards Affected – All wards

Closure of Accounts 2022/23

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to present the Council's Draft (unaudited) Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 to committee for information purposes.

Background

The Council's financial year ends on 31st March and following this date, the exercise starts to complete the annual outturn and the statutory statement of accounts.

The Council prepares its revenue and capital position which provides financial information reflecting the structure and operations of the Council. A draft statement of accounts is also prepared to comply with the current Accounting Code of Practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) regulations requires the responsible financial officer to sign and date the statement of accounts, and certify that it presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council by 31 May 2023 and following this certification that published audited statement of accounts should be completed by 31 July 2023.

Following the pandemic and infrastructure asset audit issues raised in 2020/21 there has been some disruption in the standard accounts preparation timetable for a number of years. Audit Wales (AW) recently set out their proposed timetable for the next three years:

- Audit of Accounts 2022-23 – AW certification by 30 November 2023;
- Audit of Accounts 2023-24 – AW certification by 31 October 2024;
- Audit of Accounts 2024-25 – AW certification by 30 September 2025.

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 already make provision for an authority having to delay preparing and publishing their annual financial accounts. By virtue of regulation 10(4) authorities are able to include a note on websites to say why they haven't prepared or published their accounts within existing deadlines to comply with legislation.

Closure of Accounts 2022/23

The draft (unaudited) statement of accounts are included in Appendix 1, the statements were signed and certified by the Chief Finance Officer and passed to Audit Wales on 26th May 2023.

The statements are now subject to audit by Audit Wales culminating in them being signed by the Chair of this Committee once the audit has been completed.

Summary

The Draft Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 are forwarded to Governance & Audit Committee for information and review.

Financial Impact

All financial impacts are contained within the body of the report.

Integrated Impact Assessment

There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment in respect of this item.

Valleys Communities Impacts

There are no impacts in respect of this item.

Workforce impacts

There are no workforce impacts in respect of this item.

Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts in respect of this item.

Risk Management

There are no risk management issues in respect of this item.

Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members of the Governance and Audit Committee **note** the contents of the report.

Appendix

Appendix 1 –Draft (Unaudited) Statement of Account 2022/23

Background Papers

Outturn / Closing working papers 2022/23

Officer Contact

For further information on this report item, please contact:

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