



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

13th NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected – All wards

Closure of Accounts 2022/23

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to consider and approve the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts following completion of the external audit.

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 authority 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 the national infrastructure asset issues raised during the 2020/21 closing cycle, there has been some disruption in the standard accounts preparation timetable. Audit Wales (AW) have subsequently set out their proposed timetable for the accounting periods for 2022-23 to 2024-25 as follows:

- 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

Neath Port Talbot's Draft Statement of Accounts were signed and certified by the Chief Finance Officer on 26th May 2023, and passed to Audit Wales to begin the audit process.

It is pleasing that Audit Wales are intending to issue an unqualified audit report once the Letter of Representation found in Appendix 2 has been approved and issued to Audit Wales by this committee.

Any items identified by the auditors as having a need to be corrected within the statements have been undertaken, details of which were summarised in the auditors ISA 260 report. The effects of these adjustments have not altered the overall net position of the main statements, nor have they affected the net outturn position reported to Council.

Annual Governance Statement

Members should note the Annual Governance Statement was approved by Cabinet on 28 June 2023. A copy can be found in appendix 3.

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:

- Approve the Letter of representation, included in Appendix 1.
- Approve the final 2022/23 Statement of Accounts as included in Appendix 2.
- Approve the Annual Governance Statement included in Appendix 3
- The Chair of Governance and Audit Committee be authorised to provide their electronic signature for both the Letter of Representation and the Statement of Accounts.

Appendix

Appendix 1 - Letter of Representation 2022/2023

Appendix 2 - Statement of Accounts 2022/2023

Appendix 3 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023

Background Papers

Outturn / Closing working papers 2022/23

Officer Contact

For further information on this report item, please contact:

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