

**Powys County Council  
Governance and Audit Committee Template**

|                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Committee:</b> | Governance and Audit Committee       |
| <b>Date:</b>      | 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2023       |
| <b>Subject:</b>   | <b>Statement of Accounts 2022/23</b> |

**1. Who will be the Lead Officer(s) / Lead Cabinet Member(s) presenting the report?**

| Name:       | Role:                      |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Jane Thomas | Head of Financial Services |
|             |                            |
|             |                            |

**2. Why is the Committee being asked to consider the subject?**

To sign off the audited Statement of Accounts

**3. Role of the Committee:**

**The role of the Committee in considering the subject is to:**  
Approve the final document for publication.

**4. Key Questions:**

**What Key areas should the Committee focus on:**  
Audit Wales Audit of Accounts Report

**Key Feeders (tick all that apply)**

|                                      |   |                                   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Strategic Risk                       |   | Cabinet Work Plan                 |  |
| Director / Head of Service Key Issue |   | External / Internal Inspection    |  |
| Existing Commitment / Annual Report  | ✓ | Performance / Finance Issue       |  |
| Suggestion from Public               |   | Referral from Council / Committee |  |
| Corporate Improvement Plan           |   | Impacting Public / other services |  |
| Service Integrated Business Plan     |   |                                   |  |
| Suggestion from Members              |   |                                   |  |
| Partnerships                         |   |                                   |  |

**Key Impact (tick all that apply)**

|               |  |             |  |
|---------------|--|-------------|--|
| Policy Review |  | Performance |  |
|---------------|--|-------------|--|

|                                  |  |                            |   |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| Informing Policy Development     |  | Evidence Gathering         | ✓ |
| Risk                             |  | Corporate Improvement Plan |   |
| Service Integrated Business Plan |  | Partnerships               |   |
| Pre-Decision Scrutiny            |  | Finance / Budget           | ✓ |

# CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

## Governance and Audit Committee 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Report Author:** Jane Thomas, Head of Financial Services

**Report Title:** Statement of Accounts 2022/23

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**Report For:** **Decision**

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### 1. Purpose

1.1 To present the audited version of the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 for the approval of the Committee.

1.2 Once approved, this information will be published accordingly.

### 2. Background

2.1 The draft Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 were signed off by the Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 as required by Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended).

2.2 The impact of COVID-19 and infrastructure asset audit issues raised last year has once again meant Welsh Government made provision for a potential delay in completing the accounts, extending the date for the preparation and certification of draft accounts to the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, Audit Wales certification by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 with the publication of final audited accounts extended to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 for all local government bodies in Wales.

2.3 The Auditor General intends to issue an unqualified opinion on the 2022/23 Accounts of the Authority following receipt of the certified Letter of Representation and the approved Statement of Accounts.

2.4 The Governance & Audit Committee is asked to consider the enclosed Letter of Representation and Powys Pension Fund Accounts and authorise the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee and the Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to sign the documents.

2.4 As part of its role in scrutinising the Council's Statement of Accounts, Governance and Audit Committee will have participated in two Audit seminars. One on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023, where they received a presentation on the draft accounts submitted to Audit Wales and another held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 which presented the main changes made since the draft and reviewed the items and issues raised during the audit period. Members of the Committee use this opportunity to review and question the amendments, enabling them to fully understand the reasons for the changes and any impact they have on the accounts.

### 3. Advice

3.1 All misstatements have been corrected; a list recorded in Appendix 3 of the Auditor General's Report. The adjustments uplifting Council Dwellings was expected as details of the uplift required were not available at the time of the draft accounts.

3.2 Recommendations identified in the Appendix 4 of the Auditor General's report have been accepted in full and the corresponding actions will be addressed and included in the closing timetable process for 2023/24.

3.3 The Governance and Audit Committee are asked to consider the Statement of Accounts documentation, the explanations provided and the advice of Audit Wales in considering the recommendation.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

4.1 The Statement of Accounts has been undertaken within existing resources, based upon a range of mechanisms including the Council's current Integrated Business Plans, Corporate Improvement Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Any actions identified for delivery are to be considered by the organisation, and to be embedded within Service's Integrated Business Plans as part of the Council's strategic planning cycle. Where resources are needed to support future actions, they will be identified as a pressure within the Councils Finance Resource Model.

4.2 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the resource implications above.

#### **5. Legal implications**

5.1 The agreement of the Statement of Accounts allows for the Council to meet its obligations as required by Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended).

5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and support the recommendations."

#### **6. Data Protection**

6.1 Not applicable

#### **7. Comment from local member(s)**

7.1 These reports impact with equal force across the whole County, and therefore comments have not been sought from individual Members.

#### **8. Impact Assessment**

8.1 An Impact Assessment (IA) is not required for this report as the report does not include any formal proposals or policy changes.

8.2. All actions within the report will be taken forward by responsible officers as part of the strategic planning process, which will have the relevant Impact Assessments as required as part of this process.

#### **9. Recommendation**

9.1 That the **Committee considers and approves the 2022-23 Statement of Accounts and Letter of Representation. Which can be formally signed by the Chair of the Committee and the Section 151 Officer.** The Statement of Accounts be published as soon as possible but certainly by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

Contact Officer:

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