

# Audit of Accounts Report Addendum – Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Audit year: 2019-20

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# Contents

Audit of Accounts Report Addendum

Introduction 4

Recommendations from this year's audit 5

# Audit of Accounts Report Addendum

## Introduction

- 1 This report is an addendum to our Audit of Accounts Report that we presented to you on 25 November 2020. The report sets out the recommendations arising from our audit of the 2019/20 accounts.
- 2 We should like to take this opportunity to once again thank all your staff who helped us throughout the audit.

## Recommendations from this year's audit

### Exhibit 1: matter arising 1

<b>Matter arising 1 – confirmation of interests for Members and Senior Officers who are leaving the Council</b>	
<b>Findings</b>	<p>As part of our audit evidence we require positive assurance that Members and senior officers' interests are accurate and up to date.</p> <p>Currently Members and officers complete a declaration each year as part of the closedown procedures of the accounts, to confirm the interests held were correct for the relevant financial year.</p> <p>During our audit we identified one Member and one senior officer had left during the financial period and there was no evidence to show that the declarations were current.</p>
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Recommendation</b>	<p>As part of the leaving process for Members and senior officers we recommend that the Council seek positive assurance that the record of interests held are accurate and up to date.</p>
<b>Benefits of implementing the recommendation</b>	<p>This would give stronger evidence for the related parties note in the accounts to ensure the note is accurate and the information is complete.</p>

**Matter arising 1 – confirmation of interests for Members and Senior Officers who are leaving the Council**

<b>Accepted in full by management</b>	Accepted in full.
<b>Management response</b>	Finance officers will work with Legal Services officers to ensure that a process is documented, and interests are confirmed prior to Members and Senior Officers leaving the Council.
<b>Implementation date</b>	1 March 2021

**Exhibit 2: matter arising 2**

**Matter arising 2 – incomplete declaration of interests for Members**

<b>Findings</b>	<p>As part of our audit procedures we review Companies House records to confirm the completeness of Members and senior officers' interest.</p> <p>During our testing this year we identified that a Member had omitted a company of which they were a director from their declaration of interest form.</p> <p>There had been transactions between the Council and the body during the 2019/20 financial year and therefore the related parties note in the accounts was incomplete.</p>
<b>Priority</b>	Medium
<b>Recommendation</b>	We recommend the Council remind Members and senior officers of the importance of the declarations of interest and give guidance on what needs to be included in line with regulations and information required to ensure the accounts comply with the CIPFA code.

**Matter arising 2 – incomplete declaration of interests for Members**

<b>Benefits of implementing the recommendation</b>	Improved accuracy of the register of interests and related part disclosures in the accounts.
<b>Accepted in full by management</b>	Accepted in full.
<b>Management response</b>	Finance officers will review Companies House records to reduce risk of omission of interests.
<b>Implementation date</b>	1 April 2021





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