

**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM
REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE**

22ND SEPTEMBER 2021

JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

**Author: Stephanie Davies, Head of Finance, Education and Financial Reporting
Tel. No. 01443 680560**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is intended to ensure that the Joint Committee complies with the legal requirements relating to the production of a “Statement of Accounts” for the financial year ended 31st March 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Approve the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2020/21 (Appendix 1) and the associated Letter of Representation of the Joint Committee (Appendix 2) incorporating the audit enquiries letter to those charged with governance and management; and
- 2.2 Note the audited final out-turn position for the Joint Committee for the 2020/21 financial year and the level of General Reserve Balances held.

3. STATUTORY APPROVAL PROCESS

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations require the Responsible Financial Officer to certify the unaudited Statement of Accounts by 31st May following financial year end. The Joint Committee complied with the regulations in this

respect and the unaudited accounts were signed by the Treasurer on 27th May 2021 (following their presentation to the Joint Committee on the same day).

- 3.2 The regulations require that the Joint Committee approve the **audited** Statement of Accounts by 31st July.

4. IMPACT OF COVID 19 UPON THE STATUTORY APPROVAL PROCESS

- 4.1 The regulations include a provision whereby if the Responsible Financial Officer does not certify the draft accounts by 31st May, or publication of audited accounts does not take place by 31st July, there is a requirement to publish a statement setting out the reasons for non-compliance. In accordance with these requirements, a [notice](#) has been published on the website of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.
- 4.2 Welsh Government clarified their expectation for the timescales for the preparation and publication of 2020/21 statutory financial accounts, confirming there is no requirement to amend regulations and would require preparation and certification of draft accounts by 31st August 2021 (unaudited accounts were signed by the Treasurer on 27th May 2021, as noted in paragraph 3.1) and **publication of final audited accounts by 30th November 2021** for all local government bodies in Wales.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

- 5.1 Following certification by the Treasurer, the Statement of Accounts was submitted to Audit Wales for external audit.
- 5.2 As part of the external audit process, a number of minor corrections were made to the final accounts now included at Appendix 1, these being:
- A number of notes were amended to provide further information to the reader of the accounts.
 - A small number of other presentational adjustments were made to the accounts.
- 5.3 The audit adjustments have not affected the general reserve balances, which remain as follows:

	Total £'000
Balance as at 1 st April 2020	138
Increase/(Decrease) 2020/21	9
Balance as at 31st March 2021	147

6. LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

- 6.1 It is normal practice for Audit Wales to request that the Responsible Finance Officer provides a “Letter of Representation”, which highlights material issues relating to the completeness and accuracy of the information included in their financial statements and could, therefore influence his audit opinion. This is to ensure that the Accounts properly reflect the Joint Committee’s financial standing and is consistent with the approach taken by Audit Wales in prior years.
- 6.2 The Letter of Representation for the Joint Committee has been prepared after full consultation with all relevant officers and is attached at Appendix 2.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The completion of the audit process of the statutory accounts provides the Joint Committee with the assurance that the financial affairs of the Committee have been conducted appropriately during the financial year 2020/21.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT COMMITTEE

22nd September 2021

Report of the Joint Committee

Author: Stephanie Davies – Head of Finance – Education and Financial Reporting
**Item X - CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

List of background papers

Appendix 1 – Central South Consortium Statement of Accounts 2020/21

Appendix 2 – Central South Consortium Letter of Representation 2020/21
(incorporating the audit enquiries letter to those charged with governance and management)

Officer to Contact :
Stephanie Davies
Tel no. 01443 680560

