

**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM
REPORT FOR JOINT COMMITTEE**

27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022**

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Author: Stephanie Davies (Service Director, Finance Services)

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 2022.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Approve the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2021/22 (Appendix 1), 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 2021/22 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.

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

4. IMPACT OF 2022 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS AND COVID-19 ON 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, notices have been published on the website of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

4.2 Further to local government elections and the subsequent timing of the appointment of elected Members to Joint Committees, it was not possible to arrange a Joint Committee to enable certification by 31st May as detailed in Accounts and Audit Regulations.

4.3 In addition to the above, in recognition of the on-going impact of Covid-19, Welsh Government outlined its expectation for 2021/22 Statement of Accounts requiring certification by 31st August 2022 (unaudited accounts were certified by the Treasurer on 14th June 2022) and **publication of final audited accounts by 30th November 2022** 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 presentational adjustments were made to the final accounts included at Appendix 1.

5.3 The audit adjustments have not affected the general reserve balances, which remain as follows:

	Total £'000
Balance as at 1 st April 2021	147
Increase/(Decrease) 2021/22	27
Balance as at 31st March 2022	174

6. LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

6.1 It is normal practice for Audit Wales to request that the Responsible Financial 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 2021/22.

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

27TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Report of the Joint Committee

Author: Stephanie Davies – Service Director – Financial Services

**Item 3 - CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR
THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022**

List of background papers

Appendix 1 – Central South Consortium Draft Statement of Accounts 2021/22
Appendix 2 – Letter of Representation

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