

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>15 JANUARY 2025</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023-24</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, HOUSING AND CHANGE</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>NIGEL SMITH, GROUP MANAGER – CHIEF ACCOUNTANT</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) require Local Authorities to publish audited statement of accounts.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b>The Council’s Statement of Accounts 2023-24 were approved by the Governance and Audit Committee on 28 November 2024. Audit Wales have completed their audit of the accounts, and the Auditor General for Wales has signed the auditor’s certification of the accounts. The Statement of Accounts will be published to the Council’s website, along with the Annual Governance Statement which has been approved by the Council’s Leader and Chief Executive.</b>

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Council that the audit of the Council’s Statement of Accounts 2023-24 has concluded, and the accounts have been certified by the Auditor General with an unqualified audit opinion.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The preparation of the Statement of Accounts is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended 2018) and its content is defined by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy’s ‘Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom’ (the Code). The audited Statement of Accounts 2023-24 are attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 The audited Statement of Accounts 2023-24 was signed by the responsible financial officer as presenting a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2024 on 28 November 2024 and were approved by the Governance and Audit Committee on 28 November 2024.

## **3. Current situation / proposal**

- 3.1 The Auditor General for Wales signed the audit certification on 29 November 2024. The Audit General for Wales’ Report to Members is included at pages 83-85 of the Accounts, which confirms that, in the Auditor General’s opinion, the accounts give a

true and fair view of the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2024 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and that they have been prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and appropriate accounting standards as interpreted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023-24.

3.2 The certification of the accounts is in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice. This will give members assurance that the Statement of Accounts have been properly prepared and fairly represent the financial position of the Council for 2023-24.

3.3 **Appendix A** also includes the Council's Annual Governance Statement, approved by the Council Leader and Chief Executive. The Annual Governance Statement is reviewed by Audit Wales as part of the audit of the Statement of Accounts, to ensure consistency with the accounts and the auditor's knowledge and understanding of the Council.

3.4 The audited Statement of Accounts 2023-24, including the Annual Governance Statement, will be published on the Council's website.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives because of this report.

#### **6. Climate Change Implications**

6.1 The Climate Change implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the environment because of this report.

#### **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

7.1 The Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon Safeguarding and Corporate parenting because of this report.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1 The Statement of Accounts 2023-24 sets out the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2024. There are no further financial implications as a result of this report.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Council notes the audited Statement of Accounts 2023-24 including the Annual Governance Statement at **Appendix A**.

## **Background documents**

None