

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Executive Director of Corporate Services

Audit and Performance Review Committee: 25 September 2013

Subject: Audit of Final Accounts 2012/13

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To advise Committee of Audit Scotland's findings in relation to the audit of the Council's Financial Statements for 2012/13.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1** Committee is invited to note the findings of the audit of the financial statements as detailed in Audit Scotland's report dated September 2013.

3. Background

- 3.1** In accordance with the International Standard on Auditing 260 (ISA260), auditors are required to communicate matters relating to the audit of the financial statements to those charged with governance of a body in sufficient time to enable appropriate action, if required, to be taken.

4. Main Issues

- 4.1** Audit Scotland has issued a report dated September 2013 which details the main issues arising from the audit of the financial statements. The full report is appended to this report (Appendix 1) and David McConnell, Assistant Director of Audit from Audit Scotland, will be in attendance to present the findings of the report.
- 4.2** The report identifies a number of improvement recommendations together with management responses ("resolutions" in the report).
- 4.3** The report also appends the proposed independent auditor's report and the draft letter of representation (ISA 580) which the Head of Finance and Resources is required to sign and submit to Audit Scotland.
- 4.4** The Audit Opinion is detailed on page 5 of the report which advises that Audit Scotland expect to issue an unqualified opinion on the Council's annual financial statements.
- 4.5** The draft (unaudited) financial statements for 2012/13 were sent to Members during June 2013.
- 4.6** Agreement has been reached during the audit on a number of presentational changes to the draft accounts.

4.7 It is anticipated that a full report on the 2012/13 audit will be presented to Council on 30 October 2013.

5. People Implications

5.1 There are no people implications.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 An amendment was agreed to the draft annual report and final accounts of the Valuation Joint Board, which saw a return of the surplus held over £0.250m to the three partnered local authorities, on the basis of their current level of contribution. The Council's unearmarked balance of £5.055m reported in the draft accounts has therefore increased to £5.134m.

7. Risk Analysis

7.1 There was no requirement to carry out a risk analysis.

8. Equalities Impact Assessment

8.1 As this report presents the findings of another public body, there is no requirement to carry out an equality impact assessment. However, any actions required to address any concerns raised in the Audit report may require to be subject to Equalities Impact Assessment.

9. Consultation

9.1 The views of Legal Services have been requested on this report and have advised there are neither any issues nor concerns.

9.2 The draft Financial Statements 2012/13 has followed the required procedure for advertising and public inspection.

10. Strategic Assessment

10.1 The report is for noting and, therefore, does not directly affect any of the strategic priorities.

Angela Wilson
Executive Director of Corporate Services
Date: 20 September 2013

Person to Contact: Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager, Garshake Road
Telephone (01389) 737194
E-mail: gillian.mcneilly@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Appendix: Appendix 1 – Audit Scotland’s report on the audit of the financial statements 2012/13

Background Papers: n/a

Wards Affected: All