

Accounting statements 2023-24 for:

Name of
Committee:

SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 (£)	31 March 2024 (£)	
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. Balances brought forward	3,194	23,663	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	103,747	380,662	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	0	0	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	0	25,242	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	83,278	337,899	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	23,663	41,184	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal $(1+2+3) - (4+5+6)$.
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors	16,292	151,423.	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the Committee at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	15,464	200,966.	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	8,093	311,205.	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the Committee (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	23,663	41,184.	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of $(8+9-10)$.
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0	0	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective financial management during the year; and • the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	√		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	√		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	√		Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	√		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the committee's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	√		Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the Committee and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	√		Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the Committee.	6, 8
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	√		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	√		Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement	
1.	
2.	
3.	

* Include here any additional disclosures the Committee considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Committee approval and certification

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2024.	Approval by the Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Committee under minute reference:
	Minute ref: <i>Item 11 3/6/2024</i>

RFO signature: 	Chair signature: 
Name: Christopher Bradshaw	Name: Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby
Date: 23/05/2024	Date: 3/6/24

Date	Description	Amount
23/05/2024	Initial deposit to the RFO account for the year 2024/25.	£10,000.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of office supplies.	£500.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of IT equipment.	£2,500.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of furniture.	£1,000.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of software licenses.	£3,000.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of travel expenses.	£750.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of training courses.	£1,250.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of legal services.	£1,500.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of consultancy fees.	£2,000.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of professional fees.	£1,750.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of audit fees.	£2,250.00
23/05/2024	Transfer from the RFO account to the main council account for the purchase of other miscellaneous expenses.	£1,000.00

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of
Committee:

SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

The Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to the Committee)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	√				These are maintained via a combination of a central function by Rhondda Cynon Taf's Accountancy staff/departments and information held by Finance staff under a SLA with CCR in 2023/24.
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	√				Invoices/receipts for expenditure agreed and were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors were properly recorded. CJCs were granted section 33 VAT status on the 9 th February 2023 and therefore, transactions incurred fully after that date have been included Net of VAT.
3. The Committee assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	√				These are undertaken with regular meetings, information and reports presented to Joint Committee. CJC Risks have been clearly captured in the various updates/reports presented to Members.
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	√				These are maintained via a combination of a central function by Rhondda Cynon Taf's Accountancy staff/departments and information held by Finance staff under a SLA with CCR in 2023/24.
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	√				Income was supported by an adequate electronic audit trail. Debtors amounted to £151,243 at year end. CJCs were granted section 33 VAT status on the 9 th February 2023. Transactions

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to the Committee)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
					incurred fully after that date have been included Net of VAT.
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	√				No petty cash account operating at the time of review.
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	√				Salaries paid to employees were processed by Rhondda Cynon Taf's payroll department. The CJC only had two members of staff during the year with payroll transactions being actioned in February (first staff member) and March (first and second staff members) 2024.
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.			√		SEW CJC does not hold any assets or investments at time of review.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to Committee)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	√				<p>These are maintained via a combination of a central function by Rhondda Cynon Taf's Accountancy staff/departments and information held by Finance staff under a SLA with CCR in 2023/24.</p> <p>Evidence was presented and checked confirming reconciliations were carried out appropriately.</p> <p>The CJC has its own bank account. This is operated under the existing arrangements which RCT has in place with Barclays.</p>
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	√				<p>These are maintained via a combination of a central function by Rhondda Cynon Taf's Accountancy staff/departments and information held by Finance staff under a SLA with CCR in 2023/24.</p> <p>Receipts and payments/income and expenditure, agreed and were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.</p>

For any risk areas identified by the Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:					
	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to Committee)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
11.			√		
12.			√		
13.			√		


* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Committee are included in my detailed report to the Committee dated _____.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Committee's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the Committee (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the Committee during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Marc Crumbie
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: 
Date: 23rd May 2024