

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

11th February 2021

REPORT AUTHOR: Jane Thomas, Head of Financial Services

SUBJECT: Closure of Accounts

REPORT FOR: Information

- 1.1 Committee will be aware that the Statement of Accounts and the Pension Fund accounts for 2019-20 were issued an unqualified audit opinion by the Auditor General and approved by the Audit Committee on the 29th September 2020 and 19th November 2020 respectively.
- 1.2 The closure of accounts process and completion of the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 was again delivered under a project management approach. The approach has been adopted for 6 years and has led to improvements both to the quality of the draft financial statements and the information available to support them.
- 1.3 The project management approach will continue for the 2020-21 closure of accounts.
- 1.4 The statutory deadline for the completion of the unaudited accounts is 31st May and the date for publishing 31st July. Discussions continue with Audit Wales, Welsh Government and Finance leads across Wales around these timelines given the continued pressures placed on resources due to the COVID 19 pandemic across both Health and Local Government. If the statutory deadlines cannot be met there is already some provision in place.

The Council must

- a) publish immediately a statement setting out the reasons for the officer's non-compliance; and
- b) agree to a course of action to ensure compliance as soon as possible.

As per the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

- 1.5 CIPFA held its closing workshop on 26th January 2021. The content included results of the Redmond Review, code changes for 2020/21, accounting for COVID 19 and the leasing standard IFRS 16 which will come into place from April 2022. The Pension Fund equivalent will be held on 15th February.

- 1.6 Regular meetings with Audit Wales are in progress. Early testing to transactions to period 10 are being planned and a review of systems and processes is currently being undertaken.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
The Committee notes the contents of this report.	To ensure that the Council successfully completes the preparation and approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 in order to receive an unqualified audit opinion.

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