

No.

SHARED REGULATORY SERVICES JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of an Extraordinary Remote meeting held on 31st January, 2024.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Representing Bridgend County Borough Council – Councillor R. Goode (Chair).

Representing Cardiff City and County Council – Councillors D. De’Ath (Vice-Chair) and M. Michael.

Representing the Vale of Glamorgan Council – Councillors R. Sivagnanam and P. Drake.

(a) Announcement –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.”

(b) Apology for Absence –

This was received from Councillor M. Lewis (Bridgend County Borough Council)

(c) Minutes –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December, 2023 be approved as a correct record.

(d) Declarations of Interest –

No declarations of interest were received.

(e) Audit of the 2022-23 Shared Regulatory Services Financial Statements (HF/S151O) -

The purpose of the report was to present the report of the Auditor General for Wales following the audit of Shared Regulatory Services Financial Statements for 2022/23.

No.

The audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts was in the final stages of completion. The latest 2022/23 Statement of Accounts incorporated all agreed amendments and was now presented to Committee.

The International Standard on Accounting (ISA 260) was attached at Appendix B to the report. Appendix B having been circulated and made available prior to the Committee meeting.

The audited Statement of Accounts were reported to Committee on 31st January, 2024 for approval, and then signed by the Auditor General for Wales. There was an additional transfer to reserves of £35k as a result of this audit which reclassified a creditor accrual to an earmarked reserve, this change reduced Creditors by £35k and increased Usable reserves by £35k. The other changes reflected in the account were of a classification and typographical nature and did not amend the year end balances of the accounts.

The Chair, commented on the delay to present the accounts and asked what actions Audit Wales were taking to rectify the issues. The Operational Manager – Accountancy stated that Audit Wales had a plan to improve the timeliness of presenting the audited accounts and to ensure that the accounts are finalised by September or October. It had been recognised that as there was a shortage of resources, Audit Wales had been prioritising auditing a Council's main accounts over bodies such as Joint Committees. The Council would continue to work with Audit Wales to ensure there was a programme of work to ensure the accounts were presented as soon as possible.

Subsequently, it was

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the Shared Regulatory Services 2022/23 Statement of Accounts be approved, signed and dated by the Chair of the Committee.
- (2) T H A T the Letter of Representation to Audit Wales for 2022/23 be approved, signed and dated by the Chair of the Committee.
- (3) T H A T the report of the Appointed Auditor of the audit of the Shared Regulatory Services for 2022/23 be noted.
- (4) T H A T the response to the Audit Wales Audit Enquiries as Appendix C to the report be approved.
- (5) T H A T the Shared Regulatory Services Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 be approved, signed and dated by the Chair of the Committee, the Chair of the Shared Regulatory Services Management Board and the Head of the Shared Regulatory Services.

No.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) So that the Statement of Accounts be approved prior to the deadline.
 - (2) So that the signed Letter of Representation can be returned to Audit Wales.
 - (3) To ensure that Members are aware of the results of the audit of the 2022/23 Financial Statements of the Shared Regulatory Service.
 - (4) Having regard to the contents of Appendix C and the response to the Audit Wales Audit Enquiry.
 - (5) To enable the 2022/23 accounts to be finalised.
- (f) Shared Regulatory Services Draft Budget Proposal 2024-25 (DEH) -

The purpose of the report was to provide the Partner Authorities with details of the 2024/25 Shared Regulatory Services Draft Budget Proposal.

Approval was sought of the Proposed Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Budget in respect of financial year 2024/25.

The Proposed SRS Budget 2024/25 was illustrated below:

	2023/24	2024/25	Increase/ (Decrease) in
	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Contribution
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
Gross Expenditure Budget			
Bridgend	1,914	1,917	3
Cardiff	5,009	5,152	143
Vale	1,722	1,744	22
Total Budget	8,645	8,813	168

Having considered and agreed the report, the Joint Committee

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the proposed Shared Regulatory Services budget in respect of 2024/25 be approved.
- (2) T H A T in accordance with the requirements of the Joint Working Agreement, individual authorities be requested to approve in writing the proposed budget for 2024/25 by 10th March, 2024.

No.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and to seek the agreement of the Joint Committee in line with the Joint Working Agreement.
- (2) In accordance with the requirement of the Joint Working Agreement to allow the budget to be finalised prior to the start of the 2024/25 financial year.