

Appendix A



Shared
Regulatory
Services

Gwasanaethau
Rheoliadol
a Rennir

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

Statement of Accounts 2024/25 Year Ended 31st March 2025
Audited Accounts

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

Contents Page

Narrative Report.....	1
Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts for the Shared Regulatory Service.....	10
The report of the Auditor General for Wales to the members of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee	12
Shared Regulatory Service Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2024/25	17
Shared Regulatory Service Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2023/24	18
SRS Movement in Reserves Statement 2023/24 and 2024/25.....	19
SRS Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 2024/25.....	20
SRS Balance Sheet as at 31 st March 2025	21
SRS Cash Flow Statement 2023/24 and 2024/25	22
Introduction to the Financial Statements	23
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	25
Annual Governance Statement 2024/25	61

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

Statement of Accounts 2024/25 Year Ended 31st March 2025

Narrative Report

Introduction

This document presents the Statement of Accounts for the Shared Regulatory Service in respect of financial year 2024/25 and is prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended).

The Shared Regulatory Service (SRS) produces its Statement of Accounts to explain the SRS's finances, to give assurance that public money has been properly accounted for, and that the financial standing of the Service is on a secure basis. The Statement of Accounts must provide a "true and fair" view of the SRS's financial position as at 31st March 2025, and its income and expenditure for the 2024/25 financial year.

The SRS is a collaborative service formed between Bridgend, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Councils on 1st May 2015. The Service delivers a fully integrated service under a single management structure for Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Licensing functions with shared governance arrangements ensuring full elected member accountability and scrutiny.

The SRS is managed and administered by the Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee, under powers conferred by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994. The Joint Committee is made up of two elected members from each authority. The Vale of Glamorgan Council became the Host Authority upon formation of the Joint Committee. The Joint Working Agreement and subsequent updates have been signed by the three authorities.

The SRS operates under a Joint Working Arrangement (JWA) whereby the Head of the SRS reports on service provision to the Joint Committee. An officer Management Board has been tasked with the oversight of the operation and future development of the service. The detailed delegations of policy and function from partners to the Joint Committee and Head of Service are set out in the Joint Working Agreement, which includes:

- The functions to be carried out by the joint service.
- The terms of reference and constitution of the Joint Committee, the Management Board etc.
- The terms of joint service such as staffing, services to be provided by the Host and other partners, financing and other functional issues.
- The Financial Operating Model.

Consequently, the SRS works across the three Councils, supporting a range of Committees and (where required) the three Cabinets, to deliver the Regulatory functions. The workflow involves quarterly meetings with the Management Board followed by meetings of the SRS Joint Committee, details of which are then communicated to all three Cabinets. Officers meet

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

members of the Joint Committee on a regular basis to ensure both regional and local issues are considered and managed appropriately.

All of the SRS Joint Committee meeting agendas and minutes since April 2015 are held on the websites of each constituent Council. The reports depict the genesis, development and future direction of the SRS.

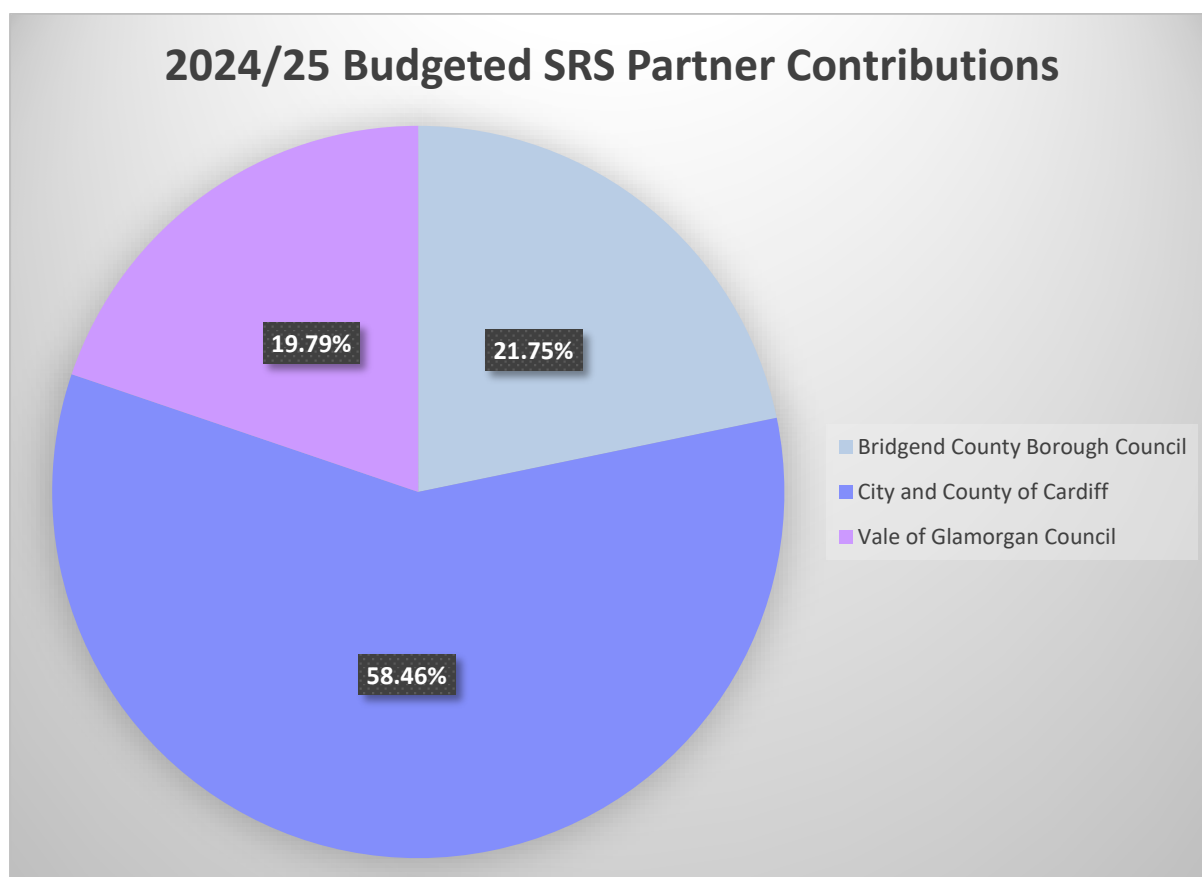
The narrative report provides insight into the funding and expenditure appertaining to the SRS in the year, the key financial issues and pressures and a look to future years.

Information contained within these accounts provides the user with clarity on the nature of transactions in respect of the financial year ended 31st March 2025, and its financial composition as at that date.

These accounts present:

- The financial statements legally required and their supporting notes; and
- The accounting policies that have been applied when preparing the accounts.

The following chart graphically represents the 2024/25 total budgeted contribution made to the SRS by the Partner Authorities, to include both Core and Authority Specific Services.



Summary of Financial Performance

The financial position of the SRS is regularly reported to the SRS Board and Joint Committee, with the same reports also being forwarded on a timely basis to the nominated senior manager of each Authority during the year.

Expenditure incurred by the SRS is predominantly split into two main elements, Core and Authority Specific Services. Core Services are those functions that are undertaken on behalf of all authorities, with the associated budgets apportioned on an annually updated pre-agreed population basis. Authority Specific Services are unique to each authority. These are Services which are not undertaken across all authorities' areas but occur within one part of the SRS area such as Night-Time Noise Pollution, which is charged directly to the relevant authority. Licensing is the exception to this rule, as it is undertaken at each authority. There is a legal requirement that the Licensing Service remain seated in the legacy authority, with each having their own assigned Licensing Committee within the said legacy authority.

The SRS 2024/25 gross expenditure budgets are shown on the following table.

Authority	Core Budget Participant Apportionment %	Core Services Budget 2024/25 £'000	Authority Specific Budget 2024/25 £'000	Agreed Budget 2024/25 £'000
Bridgend CBC	23.75%	1,454	463	1,917
City and County of Cardiff	57.00%	3,488	1,664	5,152
Vale of Glamorgan	19.25%	1,178	566	1,744
Total	100.00%	6,120	2,693	8,813

The table below illustrates the budgeted expenditure against the actual expenditure incurred for the period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Category	Budgeted Expenditure £'000	Actual Expenditure £'000	Variance £'000
Authority Specific	2,693	2,860	(167)
Core Services	6,120	6,196	(76)
Total	8,813	9,056	(243)

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

The 2024/25 revenue position of the SRS is summarised as follows:

Service	Agreed Budget £'000	Net Revenue Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances £'000	Variance £'000
Authority Specific – Licensing	1,649	1,798	(149)
Authority Specific - Other	1,044	1,062	(18)
<u>Core Services</u>			
Animal Services	435	415	20
Environmental Services	234	254	(20)
Food Services	1,621	1,610	11
Health & Safety & Communicable Disease	580	583	(3)
Housing Services	566	666	(100)
Pollution	952	966	(14)
Trading Standards	1,732	1,702	30
	8,813	9,056	(243)
Net Recovery of 2023/24 Overspend			104
Recovery of Ringfenced grant funding			88
Movement in Proceeds of Criminal Activity reserve			7
Movement in General Fund Balance			(44)
General Reserve position as of 31st March 2025			(474)
Capital Receipts			(17)
Total Usable Reserves			(491)

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

The below table shows the reconciliation of the Net revenue and expenditure chargeable to general fund balances per the outturn against the EFA:

	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances per Outturn	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances per EFA	Variance	LA income	Interest	23/24 Overspend recovery Drawdown	23/24 Overspend Recovery	Final Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Authority Specific Licensing	1,798	1,803	5	0	0	0	0	5
Authority Specific - Other	1,062	1,099	37	(37)	0	0	0	0
Animal Welfare Services	415	415	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Services	254	267	13	(13)	0	0	0	0
Food Services	1,610	1,610	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health & Safety and Communicable Disease	583	992	409	(409)	0	0	0	0
Housing Services	666	1,035	369	(369)	0	0	0	0
Pollution	966	966	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trading Standards	1,702	1,733	31	0	(36)	103	(103)	-5
Total	9,056	9,920	864	(828)	(36)	103	(103)	0

A 3% savings target was agreed for 2024/25 SRS budget which equated to £182k being taken from the Core budget. The make-up of the 2024/25 budget is illustrated in the following table:

2024/25 Budget Reconciliation	Budgeted Expenditure £'000
2023/24 Agreed Revenue Budget	8,645
2023/24 Adjustment for Pay Award Shortfall (not previously funded)	30
2024/25 Agreed 3% Savings taken from within Core	(182)
2024/25 Adjustment for £1200 Anticipated Pay Award	320
Total	8,813

The 2024/25 budget was agreed at the Special Meeting of the Shared Regulatory Services on 31st January 2024.

Two new vehicles were purchased during 2024/25 at a cost to the Service of £65k. This expenditure has been treated as Capital Expenditure (funded by) Revenue.

2024/25

The externally funded SRS Health Protection team continues to work with Cardiff and Vale Health Board and the wider Health Protection Partnership, while staff within the Communicable Disease team continue to support care homes within the SRS region in respect of infectious diseases.

The year saw a significant improvement in performance against inspection programmes, with positive progress made in finally clearing COVID-related backlogs of programmed work. Likewise, the post-COVID delays in the court system eased and by year end a total of 31 prosecutions had been concluded.

Impact of the Current Economic Climate

Despite real time annual budget reductions, public expectations on the SRS have increased quite significantly with an associated greater demand on service provision being sought than in previous years.

2024/25 was a challenging year in terms of the macroeconomic environment within which the Council and Shared Regulatory Services operated in. Cost of living pressures continued to put pressure not only on the service, but also on those businesses and citizens that the Service supports. The squeeze on budgets whether relating to individuals or businesses has increased the level of risk within society, and from a regulatory perspective, this manifests itself in a number of ways, notably increased rogue trader and illegal money lending activity. It is also the case that traditionally reputable businesses are being tempted to take riskier decisions across a range of sectors. The state of public finances and notably pay increases have put further pressure on the SRS budget at a time when another 3% saving was found coming into the financial year. All of this makes it more important than ever for the Shared Service to deliver value for money for the partners.

Non-Financial Performance

The Service delivers a range of statutory services through a collaborative model that are critical to maintaining the health, safety and economic welfare of local communities. The operating model delivers an integrated service for the Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Licensing functions, which has three service delivery sectors:

- **Neighbourhood Services**
- **Commercial Service**
- **Enterprise & Specialist Services**

As a regional organisation providing regulatory services across the three local authority areas, the Service seeks to ensure that the corporate priorities and stated outcomes of the three Councils are at the heart of its activities. Using them as a focus, the strategic priorities of the Service are:

- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Safeguarding the Vulnerable
- Protecting the Local Environment
- Supporting the Local Economy
- Maximising the use of the Shared Regulatory Service's Resources

These priorities have provided a robust base for achieving the outcomes identified in previous business plans and the partner Council's corporate aspirations.

Improving Health and Wellbeing

Improving Health and Wellbeing is a key priority for Shared Regulatory Services. Work is undertaken by the Service to ensure that food is safe, infectious disease outbreaks are managed, noise and air emissions are controlled, that risks in the workplace are managed properly, and people are enabled to live in healthy environments. This is in conjunction with the Service's activities to ensure the quality of private rented property, the promotion of a safe trading environment and the regulation of licensed premises to ensure they operate responsibly. It is evident that the work undertaken by the Service is hugely important to the health and wellbeing of the region.

Safeguarding the Vulnerable

The Service contributes towards the safeguarding agendas of the partner authorities by seeking to ensure that children are protected from harmful substances and products, that older and vulnerable people are protected from unscrupulous individuals and traders, that illegal money lending activities across Wales are challenged robustly, and that the public feel safe when using taxis as public transport.

Protecting the Environment

Protecting the environment is a core strategic priority of the SRS. Many of the activities such as water sampling, monitoring air quality, and remediating contaminated land contribute

toward promoting a better environment. This in turn means better long-term prospects for the health and wellbeing of our communities. The SRS has a key role to play in ensuring we make best use of existing resources and bringing back redundant/derelict properties into use is an important contributor to both the environment and local community development. The service has a key role to play in the wider climate change and future generations agendas through the enforcement role on energy efficiency controls on properties and products. The impact of these activities is less apparent in the short term for communities but has an important role for future generations. In the more immediate term, the Service ensures communities are protected from nuisance and are safer by investigating noise complaints and managing instances of stray dogs and horses.

Supporting the Local Economy

A strong local economy is a key component in the quality of life experienced by local people. The work of SRS has a significant, but often unseen impact upon the local economy. The provision of timely advice and guidance on regulation can benefit the economic viability of businesses resulting in improved business practice. Much of the Service's market surveillance activity focuses upon maintaining balance in the "marketplace"; the equitable enforcement of regulations enables businesses to compete on equal terms ensuring a fairer trading environment. The role of the Service as regulator also extends to providing information to support consumers to enable them to become better informed and confident. In an age where people can purchase goods and services without leaving home, the importance of the principle of "caveat emptor" – which is the principle that the buyer is responsible for checking the quality and suitability of goods before a purchase is made, has never been more relevant.

Maximising the use of Shared Regulatory Service's Resources

Maximising the use of resources was the original catalyst for creating SRS, with the work in this area continuing. By reducing "triplication" of effort, introducing better processes, making the systems work without constant intervention, improving access into the Service, the business improves resulting in an increase to customer satisfaction. Income generating activities such as marketing the metrology laboratory, offering paid for advice services, building Primary Authority partnerships and extending the training provision to business are examples of the Service's move to becoming a more "commercial" culture. Crucial to the success of the Service are the people who work within it. Officers are fully engaged in the development of the Service, by fostering an environment where people are encouraged to think, lead and innovate.

The SRS Annual Report 2024/25 details a range of activities undertaken by the Service in its support of these priorities. During 2024/25, the Service, working with the three partner Council Legal Services teams, achieved 31 successful prosecutions in support of these strategic priorities.

Looking Forward

A revenue budget of £8.838m for 2025/26 was approved by the SRS Committee on 19th February 2025.

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

This report can be accessed on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's [website](#),

SRS does not hold a capital budget.

Further Information

Further information regarding the accounts is available from the Section 151 Officer of the Vale of Glamorgan Council who is appointed as Treasurer of the Joint Committee and is located within the Corporate Resources Directorate, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts for the Shared Regulatory Service

The Vale of Glamorgan Council (as Host) Responsibilities

The Council is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Head of Finance; and
- To manage its affairs to ensure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.

The Joint Committee's Responsibilities

- To approve the Statement of Accounts.

Signature:

Date:

Chair of Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU

Responsibilities of the Head of Finance as Treasurer of the Joint Committee

The Head of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts. In accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

1. In preparing the Statement of Accounts, the Head of Finance has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- Complied with the local authority Code.

2. The Head of Finance has also throughout the financial year:

- Maintained proper accounting records that were kept up to date.
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

3. Certificate of the Head of Finance as Treasurer of the Joint Committee

I certify the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Joint Committee as at 31st March 2025, and its income and expenditure for the period then ended.

Signature:

Date:

Matt Bowmer
Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU

The report of the Auditor General for Wales to the members of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2025, under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

The Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's financial statements comprise the Expenditure and Funding Analysis, Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee as at 31 March 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

My staff and I are independent of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the responsible financial officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report or the Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit;
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for:

- the preparation of the statement of accounts, which give a true and fair view and comply with proper practices;
- maintaining proper accounting records;
- internal controls as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- assessing Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible financial officer anticipates that the services provided by Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- Enquiring of management, Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's internal auditors, and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's policies and procedures concerned with:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

- Considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified the potential for fraud in respect of the posting of unusual journals.
- Obtaining an understanding of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee.
- Obtaining an understanding of related party relationships.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management, and the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee as those charged with governance, about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and
- evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
27th March 2026

1 Capital Quarter,
Tyndall Street,
Cardiff,
CF10 4BZ

Shared Regulatory Service Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2024/25

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to the partners how funding available to the SRS in the year and has been used on the provision of services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the service in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The detailed breakdown of the adjustments between accounting and funding are illustrated for both 2023/24 and 2024/25 in Notes 7. Further information is shown about this note on page 23.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2024/25	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances £'000	Adjustments Between Accounting and Funding Basis £'000	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £'000
Authority Specific - Licensing	1,803	2	1,805
Authority Specific - Other	1,099	-40	1,059
Animal Welfare Services	415	6	421
Environmental Services	267	-1	266
Food Services	1,610	-2	1,608
Health & Safety and Communicable Disease	992	-1	991
Housing Services	1,035	-2	1,033
Pollution	966	-1	965
Trading Standards	1,733	-14	1,719
Net Cost of Services	9,920	(53)	9,867
<u>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</u>			
Contribution from Other Local Authorities	(9,641)	0	(9,641)
Interest Receivable	(36)	0	(36)
Recovery of Ringfenced funding	(88)	0	(88)
Movement of POCA Reserve	(7)	0	(7)
Recovery of Prior Year Overspend	(104)	0	(104)
Pensions Interest Payable	0	10	10
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	44	(43)	1
Opening General Fund Balance at 31st March 2024	(518)		
Less Deficit on General Fund Balance in Year	44		
Closing General Fund Balance at 31st March 2025	(474)		

Shared Regulatory Service Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2023/24

Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2023/24	Net Expenditure Chargeable to General Fund Balances £'000	Adjustments Between Accounting and Funding Basis £'000	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure £'000
Authority Specific – Licensing	1,710	8	1,718
Authority Specific - Other	975	4	979
Animal Welfare Services	553	30	583
Environmental Services	235	1	236
Food Services	1,732	7	1,739
Health & Safety and Communicable Disease	992	3	995
Housing Services	1,024	8	1,032
Pollution	944	8	952
Trading Standards	1,640	3	1,643
Net Cost of Services	9,805	72	9,877
<u>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</u>			
Contributions from Local Authorities	(9,440)	0	(9,440)
Interest Receivable	(16)	0	(16)
Recovery of Prior Year Overspend	(64)	0	(64)
Pensions Interest Payable	0	120	120
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	285	192	477
Opening General Fund Balance as at 31st March 2023	(803)		
Less Deficit on General Fund Balance in Year	285		
Closing General Fund Balance as at 31st March 2024	(518)		

SRS Movement in Reserves Statement 2023/24 and 2024/25

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the SRS, analysed into “Usable Reserves” (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure) and “Unusable Reserves”. Further information on this statement is shown on page 23.

Movement in Reserves in Reserves		Shared Regulatory Service							
		Notes	SRS Reserves £'000	Usable Capital Receipts £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Accumulated Absence Account £'000	Pensions Reserve £'000	Capital Adjustment Account £'000	Total Unusable Reserves £'000
Shared Regulatory Service									
Balance at 31 March 2023 Carried Forward									
	17,19	803	17	820	(113)	(3,450)	103	(3,460)	(2,640)
Movement in Reserves during 2023/24									
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure									
		(477)	0	(477)	0	2,790	0	2,790	2,313
Adjustments between Accounting Basis & Funding Basis									
	9	192	0	192	(40)	(120)	(32)	(192)	0
Increase/(Decrease) in Year									
		(285)	0	(285)	(40)	2,670	(32)	2,598	2,313
Balance as at 31 st March 2023/24 Carried Forward									
	17,19	518	17	535	(153)	(780)	71	(862)	(327)
Movement in Reserves during 2024/25									
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure									
		(1)	0	(1)	0	30	0	30	29
Adjustments between Accounting Basis & Funding Basis									
	9	(43)	(0)	(43)	(51)	50	44	43	0
Increase / (Decrease) in Year									
		(44)	(0)	(44)	(51)	80	44	73	29
Balance as at 31 st March 2025 Carried Forward									
		474	17	491	(204)	(700)	115	(789)	(298)

SRS Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 2024/25

This statement records all of the SRS income and expenditure throughout the year and consequently shows the accounting cost of providing services during the year in line with generally accepted accounting practices. The net expenditure is analysed by service group, with the income received from the local authorities shown within the Finance & Investment Income and Expenditure section. The full breakdown of the gross income and expenditure within this statement is illustrated in Note 8. Further information on this statement is shown on page 23.

Period Ended 31 st March 2025				Period Ended 31 st March 2024		
Gross Expt. £000's	Gross Income £000's	Net Expt. £000's		Gross Expt. £000's	Gross Income £000's	Net Expt. £000's
1,812	(7)	1,805	Authority Specific – Licensing	1,723	(5)	1,718
1,105	(46)	1,059	Authority Specific – Other	981	(2)	979
452	(31)	421	Animal Welfare Services	625	(42)	583
309	(43)	266	Environmental Services	244	(7)	237
1,649	(41)	1,608	Food Services	1,761	(23)	1,738
1,011	(20)	991	Health & Safety and Communicable Disease	1,062	(68)	994
1,037	(4)	1,033	Housing Services	1,041	(9)	1,032
971	(6)	965	Pollution	974	(21)	953
2,756	(1,037)	1,719	Trading Standards	2,647	(1,004)	1,643
11,102	(1,235)	9,867	Net Cost of Services (Note 8)	11,058	(1,181)	9,877
			Finance & Investment Income and Expenditure			
0	(9,641)	(9,641)	Contributions from Local Authorities	0	(9,440)	(9,440)
0	0	(0)	Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets	0	0	(0)
0	(36)	(36)	Interest Receivable (Note 25)	0	(16)	(16)
0	(104)	(104)	Recovery of Prior Year Overspend	0	(64)	(64)
	(7)	(7)	Increase in POCA Reserve	0	0	0
0	(88)	(88)	Recovery of Ringfenced grant funding	0	0	0
10	0	10	Pension Interest Payable (Note 23)	120	0	120
10	(9,876)	(9,866)	Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure	120	(9,520)	(9,400)
11,112	(11,111)	1	(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	11,178	(10,701)	477
			Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			
		(30)	Re-measurement of Pension Liability (Note 23)			(2,790)
		(30)	Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			(2,790)
		(29)	Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			(2,313)

SRS Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the SRS (Assets less Liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the SRS. Reserves are reported in two categories: Usable and Unusable Reserves. Further information on this statement in notes 17 and 19 of this report.

31 st March 2025 £'000	Note	Balance Sheet as at 31 st March 2025 Shared Regulatory Service	31 st March 2024 £'000
115	10	Long Term Non-Current Assets	72
0	11	Property, Plant and Equipment	0
115		Total Non-Current Assets	72
997		Short Term Debtors	1,316
432		Short Term Debtors Cash Owing from Host Authority	0
1,429	15	Current Assets	1,316
(329)		Short Term Creditors	(235)
(204)		Accumulated Absence Provision	(153)
(0)		Short Term Creditors Cash Owing to Host Authority	(57)
(533)	16	Current Liabilities	(445)
(700)	20	Pension Liability	(780)
(609)	18	Other Long-Term Liabilities	(490)
(1,309)		Long Term Liabilities	(1,270)
(298)		Net Assets	(327)
491	17	Usable Reserves	535
(204)	21	Accumulated Absences	(153)
115	22	Capital Adjustment Account	71
(700)	20	Pensions Reserve	(780)
(789)		Unusable Reserves	(862)
(298)		Total Reserves	(327)

SRS Cash Flow Statement 2023/24 and 2024/25

The Cash Flow Statement shows the change in cash and cash equivalents of the SRS during the reporting period. The statement shows how the SRS generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows into operating and investing and financing activities. The function of this statement is detailed on page 24 of this report.

31st March 2025 £'000		31st March 2024 £'000
(1)	Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of service	(478)
	Adjust net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	
21	Depreciation	56
0	Amortisation	0
0	Carrying Value on Asset	0
264	Increase/ (Decrease) in Creditors	11
319	(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	359
(50)	Movement on Pension Liability	122
554	Total adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements.	548
(0)	Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(0)
553	Net Cash-flows from operating activities	70
	Investing activities	
(64)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(25)
0	Other receipts from investing activities	0
(64)	Total Investing Activities	(25)
0	Financing activities	0
489	Net (increase)/decrease in cash and cash Equivalents	45
(57)	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	(102)
432	Cash owed To/(From) Host Authority as at 31st March	(57)

Introduction to the Financial Statements

Statement of Accounting Policies

The purpose of this statement is to explain the basis of the figures in the accounts. It outlines the accounting policies adopted.

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

This statement sets out the responsibilities of the Council as the Administering Authority and the Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts. The Statement has to be signed and dated by the presiding member at the Joint Committee meeting at which the accounts are approved.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to the funding partners (Bridgend County Borough Council, The City of Cardiff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council) how the available funding has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the different elements of the SRS structure. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Joint Committee and analysed into 'Usable Reserves' (i.e. those that the Joint Committee may use to provide services subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves, and the statutory limitations on their use) and 'Unusable Reserves'. The Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Joint Committee's Services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices rather than the amount funded by budgeted contributions. The budgeted funding contributions are shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and on the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the assets and liabilities recognised by the Joint Committee at the Balance Sheet date. The net assets of the Joint Committee (Assets less Liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Joint Committee. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves is Usable Reserves i.e. those reserves that the SRS

may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserve and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves is called Unusable Reserves and cannot be accessed by the SRS to fund the provision of services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold, and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line "Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis and regulations".

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the change in cash and cash equivalents of the Joint Committee during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Joint Committee generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows into operating and investing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Joint Committee are funded by the recipients of the services provided.

Annual Governance Statement

The statement sets out the framework within which the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the administering authority manages and reviews internal control. It outlines the components of the framework, including the arrangements for Internal Audit and how the consortium has complied with the various elements of the framework.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Accounting Policies

The SRS is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (Amended), which require them to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2003, primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code) supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Following the UK withdrawal from the remit of the EU-endorsed framework, the Code will be based on standards adopted for the UK application under the terms of the International Accounting Standards and European Public Limited Company (Amendments etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/685). These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The financial statements are presented in UK/GB pounds.

1.2 Revenue Income and Expenditure

The transactions of the SRS are accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the SRS transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser, and it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the SRS;
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the SRS can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the SRS;
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made; and
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a change made to revenue for the income that might be collected.

There are certain exceptions to this principle. The main items are:

- (a) Electricity charges, telephone expenses, leasing and similar periodic payments are included in the Accounts on a payments basis and not accrued to 31st March each year. Payments in respect of a full 12 months are included; and

- (b) The amount included in the accounts for the Budgeted Contributions are on the basis of cash received.

The difference between the amounts charged annually to the Revenue Accounts in respect of items (a) and (b) and the amounts that would be charged if they were accrued to the 31st March each year is not significant.

1.3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes any cash in hand, overnight deposits and bank overdrafts. All cash transactions are administered by the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the Shared Regulatory Service does not operate its own Bank Account.

1.4 Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies, Estimates and Errors

A change in the accounting policies or to correct a material error can result in a prior period adjustment. Changes in accounting estimates do not give rise to a prior period adjustment but are accounted for prospectively.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, or other events and conditions of the SRS's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless otherwise stated) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

1.5 Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

The following amounts are charged to revenue to record the cost of holding assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service;
- Revaluation and impairment losses on assets chargeable to the service; and
- Amortisation of intangible non-current assets attributable to the service,

The Budgeted Contributions are not required to fund depreciation, revaluation, impairment losses or amortisations, however, an annual contribution is required from revenue.

1.6 Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

Short term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year end. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave) earned by employees but not taken before the year end which

employees can carry forward into the next financial year. Holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the SRS to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service or where applicable to Non-Distributed costs.

Post-Employment Benefits

Employees of the Joint Committee are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by Cardiff County Council Pension Authority. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees who worked for the Joint Committee.

The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Scheme is Accounted for as a Defined Benefits Scheme

- The liabilities of the Cardiff and Vale Pension Fund attributable to the Joint Committee are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates etc., plus projections of projected earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate.
- The assets of the Cardiff and Vale Pension Fund attributable to the SRS are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value.
- The actuarial valuation carried out at 31st March 2025 has been adjusted to exclude both the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Vale and Valley's Adoption Service. The SRS's share of this fund has been consolidated back into the accounts and is set out in the net pension's liability is analysed into the following components.

Service Cost Comprising of

- **Current Service Cost** – the increase in liabilities as a result of a year of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the service(s) to which the employee worked.
- **Past Service Cost** – the increase in liabilities as a result of the scheme amendment of curtailment whose effect relates to years of service

earned in earlier years. Debited to the surplus or deficit of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the Non-Distributed Costs.

- **Net Interest** on the net defined benefit liability (asset), i.e. net increase expense for the SRS – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined liability (asset) at the beginning of the period, taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

Re-measurements Comprising of

- The return on plan assets, excluded in net interest on the net defined liability (asset), charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Actuarial gains and losses, changes in the net pensions' liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions. This is charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Statutory provisions require the Joint Committee Fund balance be charged with the amount payable by the SRS to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year in relation to retirement benefits.

Discretionary Benefits

The Shared Service also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirements benefits in the event of early retirements.

1.7 Events After the Balance Sheet Date

These are events, both favourable and unfavourable that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Such events could result in the Statement of Accounts being adjusted. Two types of events can be identified:

- Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period. The Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events; and
- Those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period, the Statement of Accounts is then adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure

is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

- There are no post-balance sheet events to report.

1.8 Government Grants and Contributions

Government Grants, Third Party Contributions and Donations are recognised as due to the SRS when there is reasonable assurance that:

- The SRS will comply with the conditions attached to the payments; and
- The grant(s) or contributions will be received.

Grants and contributions advanced for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. Once conditions are satisfied, the grants or contributions are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

1.9 Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the SRS is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the SRS.

The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Assets are maintained in the Balance Sheet at fair value.

1.10 Leases

The Shared Regulatory Service does not have any operating or finance leases in 2024/25.

1.11 Overheads and Support Costs

The cost of SRS Overheads and Support services are apportioned out within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These costs sit with the relevant groupings within the statements concerned.

1.12 Inventories

The Shared Regulatory Service did not hold any inventory as at 31st March 2025.

1.13 Property Plant and Equipment

Vehicles, Plant and Equipment are included at cost (less depreciation where required).

Expenditure on the acquisition or creation of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accrual's basis, provided that the future economic benefits

or service potential associated with the item will flow to the SRS and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

A de-minimis rule for capital has been applied – generally no capital expenditure valued at under £10,000 is included within the capital spend. Where a group of assets exceed £10,000 these would normally be considered de-minimis for capital expenditure.

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price.
- Any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management; and
- The initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.
- When decreases in value for individual assets are identified, they are accounted for either by setting it off against gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, or against the relevant service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year end as to whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist, and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount is estimated and if this is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall. This is either set against the balance of the Revaluation Reserve if there have been previous valuation gains for the asset or it is written down against the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Plant and Equipment assets over their useful lives which is determined as being five years.

Depreciation is calculated on the following basis:

- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment – over the five-year life of the asset

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

1.14 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

Provisions

Provisions are made when an event has taken place that gives the SRS a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefit or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and expenditure Statement in the year that the SRS becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate at the Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. The Shared Regulatory Service did not hold any provisions as at 31st March 2025.

Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the SRS a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly in the control of the SRS. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made, but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the SRS a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the SRS.

Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

1.15 Specific Reserves

These reserves represent sums of money that are voluntarily set aside for specific purposes.

1.16 Value Added Tax

Income and expenditure exclude any amounts related to Value Added Tax (VAT), as all VAT collected is payable to HM Revenue and Customs and all VAT paid is recoverable from them.

2. Accounting Standards that have been issued but have yet to be adopted.

At the balance sheet date, there are no new relevant standards or amendments to existing standards that have been published but not yet adopted by the Code that will have any impact upon the financial statements.

3. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies set out above, the SRS would have made certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. However, there are none known at the date of the report.

There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the SRS has determined that this uncertainty is not yet sufficient to provide an indication that the Service may need to reduce levels of service provision.

4. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Audited Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) on 25th March 2026.

Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. There have been no post balance sheet events prior to this date that have been reflected in the Statement of Accounts. Such events could result in the Statement of Accounts being adjusted. Two types of events can be identified.

- Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period, the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events.
- Those that are indicative of condition that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

5. Prior Period Adjustments

A change in accounting policies or to correct a material error can result in a prior period adjustment. Changes in accounting estimates do not give rise to a prior period adjustment but are accounted for prospectively.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices, or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the

effect of the transactions, other events and condition of the SRS's financial position or financial performance. When a change is made it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

There are no prior period adjustments to report within the 2024/25 financial statements.

6. Assumptions Made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the SRS about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Joint Committee's Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025 for which there is significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Property Plant and Equipment

Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. Useful lives will impact on depreciation calculations. For assets such as Vehicles and Equipment (5 years) standard asset lives are used unless evidence is available to the contrary.

The SRS holds no infrastructure assets such as operational buildings which would be directly affected by a change to the real estate market.

Debtors

There are no significant debts held by the Shared Regulatory Service in excess of a year old as at 31st March 2025. However, a provision of £17k in respect of bad and doubtful debts has been included within the 2024/25 Statements, with all other debts considered to be recoverable.

Pensions Liability

Pensions are provided under the Local Government Pension Scheme, with the Shared Regulatory Service being a member of the Cardiff and Vale Pension Fund, administered by Cardiff Council. Employees and employers contribute to the fund, along with investment income and growth generated.

A triennial valuation is carried out on the fund. The value of the pension liability as at 31st March 2025 being £0.7m, which represents a reduction of £0.08m from the previous year as illustrated on the balance sheet.

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements related to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of actuaries is engaged to provide the Cardiff and Vale Pension Fund with expert advice about assumptions to be applied. The actuarial report is based on a roll forward of the triennial valuation carried out at 31st March 2022.

The actuarial report confirms that they are maintaining a watching brief in relation to Covid-19 developments and the possible impact on defined benefit pension scheme liabilities.

Their proposed mortality assumptions will be updated at 2024/25 year-end to reflect an up-to-date analysis of the Fund's membership data undertaken as part of the 2022 valuation. The 2022 valuation assumption had regard to the view of the actuary on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on long-term mortality trends. At that point they will consider if any further adjustment should be made to the mortality assumption for accounting purposes to reflect updated views on the impact of the pandemic on future longevity trends.

The estimated liability resulting from the McCloud/Sargent judgement has been accounted for within the information provided by the actuary.

Future Period Budget Pressures

In accordance with the Joint Working Agreement, as signed by all partner authorities on the 1st May 2015, the revenue budget must be agreed by 31st December in the year preceding the year to which it relates. All amendments to the revenue budget are progressed in the following financial year.

Material Items of Income and Expenditure

The Shared Regulatory Service does not have any material items of income and expenditure to report that require any further explanation.

7. Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Notes to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2024/25					
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts					
	Pension Interest Adjustment £'000	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £'000	Net Change for Pensions Adjustment £'000	Accrued Annual Leave £'000	Total Adjustment £'000
Authority Specific – Licensing	0	0	(7)	9	2
Authority Specific – Other	(1)	(42)	(4)	7	(40)
Animal Welfare Services	(1)	7	(2)	2	6
Environmental Services	(1)	0	(1)	1	(1)
Food Services	(1)	0	(8)	7	(2)
Health & Safety and Communicable Disease	0	0	(5)	4	(1)
Housing Services	(2)	0	(6)	6	(2)
Pollution	(1)	0	(5)	5	(1)
Trading Standards	(3)	(9)	(12)	10	(14)
Net Cost of Services	(10)	(44)	(50)	51	(53)
Contributions from Las	0	0	0	0	0
Profit on Disposal of Asset	0	(0)	0	0	(0)
Pensions Interest Payable	10	0	0	0	10
Difference between the General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or deficit	0	(44)	(50)	51	(43)
Notes to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2023/24					
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts					
	Pension Interest Adjustment £'000	Adjustments for Capital Purposes £'000	Net Change for Pensions Adjustments £,000	Accrued Annual Leave £'000	Total Adjustment £'000
Authority Specific – Licensing	(18)	0	18	8	8
Authority Specific – Other	(9)	(0)	9	4	4
Animal Welfare Services	(5)	28	5	2	30
Environmental Services	(3)	0	3	1	1
Food Services	(20)	(0)	20	7	7
Health & Safety and Communicable Disease	(12)	0	12	3	3
Housing Services	(16)	6	16	2	8
Pollution Services	(11)	4	11	4	8
Trading Standards	(26)	(6)	26	9	3
Net Cost of Services	(120)	32	120	40	72
Contributions from Las	0	0	0	0	0
Interest Receivable	0	0	0	0	(0)
Pensions Interest Payable	120	0	0	0	120
Difference between the General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or deficit	0	32	120	40	192

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

- Depreciation/ impairment and revaluation gains and losses are added in.
- Adjustments for disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.

Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

This adjustment relates to the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income which means:

- The replacement of the employer pension contributions with current service costs and past service costs.
- The net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Other Income and Expenditure line.

Accrued Annual Leave

- Adjustments are made for accrued staff annual leave. The balances of leave held at 31st March 2025 reflect an increase from 2023/24 levels.

8. Note to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2024/25	Employee Expenses £'000	Other Expenses £'000	Depreciation/ Amortisation £'000	Gross Expenditure £'000	Grant Income £'000	Fees & Charges £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
Authority Specific – Licensing	1,536	276	0	1,812	0	(7)	(7)	1,805
Authority Specific – Other	1,008	96	1	1,105	0	(46)	(46)	1,059
Animal Welfare Services	369	76	7	452	0	(31)	(31)	421
Environmental Services	247	62	0	309	0	(43)	(43)	266
Food Services	1,542	107	0	1,649	0	(41)	(41)	1,608
Health & Safety and Communicable Disease	979	32	0	1,011	0	(20)	(20)	991
Housing Services	967	70	0	1,037	(3)	(1)	(4)	1,033
Pollution	919	52	0	971	0	(6)	(6)	965
Trading Standards	2,332	411	13	2,756	(871)	(166)	(1,037)	1,719
Net Cost of Services	9,899	1,182	21	11,102	(874)	(361)	(1,235)	9,867
Finance & Investment Income & Expenditure								
Contributions from Local Authorities					0		(9,641)	(9,641)
(Profit)/Loss on Disposal of Asset					0		(0)	(0)
Recovery of Ringfenced Grants					0		(88)	(88)
Increase in POCA reserve					0		(7)	(7)
Interest Receivable (Note 25)					0		(36)	(36)
Recovery of Prior Year Overspend					0		(104)	(104)
Pension Interest Payable (Note 23)					10		0	10
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure					10		(9,876)	(9,866)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services					11,112		(11,111)	1

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

2023/24	Employee Expenses £'000	Other Expenses £'000	Depreciation/ Amortisation £'000	Gross Expenditure £'000	Grant Income £'000	Fees & Charges £'000	Gross Income £'000	Net Expenditure £'000
Authority Specific – Licensing	1,499	224	0	1,723	0	(5)	(5)	1,718
Authority Specific – Other	908	73	0	981	0	(2)	(2)	979
Animal Welfare Services	401	196	28	625	0	(42)	(42)	583
Environmental Services	243	1	0	244	0	(7)	(7)	237
Food Services	1,642	119	0	1,761	0	(23)	(23)	1,738
Health & Safety and Communicable Disease	1,030	32	0	1,062	0	(68)	(68)	994
Housing Services	1,010	25	6	1,041	(9)	(0)	(9)	1,032
Pollution	922	48	4	974	0	(21)	(21)	953
Trading Standards	2,089	540	18	2,647	(859)	(145)	(1,004)	1,643
Net Cost of Services	9,744	1,258	56	11,058	(868)	(313)	(1,181)	9,877
<u>Finance & Investment Income & Expenditure</u>								
Contributions from Local Authorities				0			(9,440)	(9,440)
(Profit)/Loss on Disposal of an Asset				0			(0)	(0)
Repayment of Prior Year Underspend				0			0	0
Interest Receivable (Note 25)				0			(16)	(16)
Recovery of Prior Year Overspend				0			(64)	(64)
Pension Interest Payable (Note 23)				120			0	120
Financing & Investment Income & Expenditure				120			(9,520)	(9,400)
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services				11,178			(10,701)	477

9. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Analysis

	SRS Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Total Unusable Reserves £'000
2024/25				
Accrued Staff Annual Leave	(51)	0	(51)	51
Reversal of Items Relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	(1,350)	0	(1,350)	1,350
Employers pension contributions and direct payments to pensions payable in year	1,400	0	1,400	(1,400)
Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue Balances	65	0	65	(65)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal to CIES	0	0	(0)	0
Charges for Depreciation/Amortisation of Non-Current Assets	(21)	0	(21)	21
	43	0	43	(43)

	SRS Reserves £'000	Capital Receipts Reserve £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000	Total Unusable Reserves £'000
2023/24				
Accrued Staff Annual Leave	(40)	0	(40)	40
Reversal of Items Relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES	(1,470)	0	(1,470)	1,470
Employers pension contributions and direct payments to pensions payable in year	1,350	0	1,350	(1,350)
Capital Expenditure funded from Revenue Balances	24	0	24	(24)
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal to CIES	0	0	(0)	0
Charges for Depreciation/Amortisation of Non-Current Assets	(56)	0	(56)	56
	(192)	(0)	(192)	192

10. Property, Plant & Equipment

	2024/25			2023/24		
	Vehicles £'000	Equipment £'000	Total £'000	Vehicles £'000	Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost/Valuation as at 1 April	328	82	410	303	82	385
Additions	65	0	65	25	0	25
Deletions	0	0	0	(0)	0	(0)
Cost/Valuation as at 31 March	393	82	475	328	82	410
Accumulated Depreciation and impairment as at 1 April	(257)	(81)	(338)	(205)	(77)	(282)
Depreciation charge	(21)	(1)	(22)	(52)	(4)	(56)
Write out Disposal Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment as at 31 March	(278)	(82)	(360)	(257)	(81)	(338)

Net Book Value	Vehicles £'000	Equipment £'000	Total £'000	Vehicles £'000	Equipment £'000	Total £'000
At 31 March 2024				71	1	72
At 31 March 2025	115	0	115			

11. Intangible Assets

The SRS accounts for its software as intangible assets. Software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be of use to the SRS. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the SRS are five years. The carrying amount of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. The asset was fully amortised in 2021/22, with the software license now charged on an annual basis.

	Purchased Assets 2024/25 £'000	Purchased Assets 2023/24 £'000
Balance at start of year		
Gross carrying amounts	117	117
Accumulated Amortisation	(117)	(117)
Net carrying amount at start of year	0	0
Additions	0	0
Purchases	0	0
Amortisation	0	0
Other Disposals	0	0
Amortisation written off on disposal	0	0
Net carrying amount at end of year	0	0
Comprising		
Gross carrying amounts	117	117
Accumulated Amortisation	(117)	(117)
Net carrying amount at end of year	0	0

12. Related Party Transactions

In accordance with IAS 24, the Joint Committee has a duty to disclose any material transactions with a related party. This is to ensure that financial statements contain the disclosures necessary to draw attention to the possibility that the reported financial position and results may have been affected by the existence of related parties and by material transactions with them.

All cash transactions are administered by the Vale of Glamorgan Council (Host Authority) as the Shared Regulatory Service does not operate its own bank account. As at 31st March 2025, the Joint Committee was owed £432k from the Council relating to these transactions. During the year, transactions with Related Parties arose and are shown in the following table while debtor and creditor balances at year end are detailed in **Notes 15 and 16**.

2024/25			2023/24	
Expenditure £'000	Income £'000		Expenditure £'000	Income £'000
69	(1,937)	Bridgend CBC	78	(1,935)
173	(5,734)	The City of Cardiff Council	373	(5,448)
436	(1,769)	Vale of Glamorgan Council	419	(1,768)
678	(9,440)	Total	870	(9,151)

The Shared Regulatory Service also delivers rechargeable services on behalf of other Local Authorities of £20k in 2024/25.

Track, Trace and Protect Income previously received from Bridgend and Cardiff has ceased during this financial period.

The SRS continues to provide support to the Cardiff and Vale health board. In the 2024/25 financial year we have delivered £380k of rechargeable services.

Welsh Government effect and influence the SRS via legislation and grant funding. As at 31st March 2025 there are no sums in respect of grants outstanding from Welsh Government.

Pension contributions are made to Cardiff and the Vale Pension Fund in respect of Joint Committee Employees. Interests of Members of the Joint Committee are maintained in a register held by their own Local Authority.

13. Audit Fees

2024/25 £'000		2023/24 £'000
18	Audit Wales Fees	32
18	Total	32

The 2023/24 fee reflects the charge by Audit Wales for the completion of the audit. Due to additional time needed to complete the audit an additional charge of £14k was included.

14. Leases

There are no long-term agreements as at the Balance Sheet date. The Joint Committee holds no leased assets.

15. Debtors

2024/25 £'000		2023/24 £'000
13	Central Government Bodies	299
18	Bridgend County Borough Council	491
538	City and County of Cardiff Council	339
5	Other Local Authorities	16
0	Vale of Glamorgan Council	0
393	NHS Bodies	146
47	Public Corporations and Trading Accounts	38
0	Other Entities and Individuals (including trade debtors)	0
1,014	Total	1,329
(17)	Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts	(13)
997	Balance as at 31st March	1,316
432	Cash Owed from the host authority	0
1,429	Balance as at 31st March (including cash owed from host authority)	1,316

There are 44 unpaid debtor balances that are in excess of a year old, therefore, a £17k provision for Bad and Doubtful Debt has been made within the 2024/25 accounts. The SRS periodically receives a portion of any seized funds from proceeds of crime, however as these timings and values are unknown until confirmation via the home office these cannot be included as debtors at year-end.

16. Creditors

2024/25 £'000		2023/24 £'000
(12)	Central Government Bodies	(18)
(69)	Bridgend County Borough Council	(6)
(133)	City And County of Cardiff Council	(190)
(0)	Vale of Glamorgan (Host Authority)	(0)
(0)	NHS Bodies	(0)
(0)	Public Corporations and Trading Funds	(7)
(204)	Accumulated Absences	(153)
(37)	Receipts in Advance	(0)
(78)	Other Entities and Individuals	(14)
(533)	Balance as at 31st March	(388)
0	Cash Owed to the host authority	(57)
(533)	Balance as at 31st March (including cash owed to the host authority)	(445)

17. Movement on Usable Reserves

The General Fund balance is a distributable revenue reserve, which consists of the accumulated surpluses of the Shared Regulatory Services' operations.

	General Reserves £'000	Earmarked Reserves £'000	Other Reserves £'000	Total Usable Reserves £'000
Balance as at 1st April 2023	(698)	(105)	(17)	(820)
Reallocation	50	(50)	0	0
Recovery of 2022/23 Overspend	(63)	0	0	(63)
Adjustment planned expenditure 22-23 accounts	36	0		36
Specific Revenue Reserve	78	154	0	232
POCA Reserve movements	0	(23)	0	(23)
2023/24 Overspend	103	0	0	103
Balance as at 31st March 2024	(494)	(24)	(17)	(535)
Balance as at 1st April 2024	(494)	(24)	(17)	(535)
POCA Reserve movements	0	(8)	0	(8)
Recovery of 23/24 overspend	(103)	0	0	(103)
Recovery of Ringfenced income	0	(88)	0	(88)
2024/25 Overspend	243	0	0	243
Balance as at 31st March 2025	(354)	(120)	(17)	(491)

18. Movement on Other Long-Term Liabilities

2024/25 £'000	Other Long-Term Liabilities	2023/24 £'000
(490)	Balance as at the 1st April	(490)
0	Drawdown to fund Operating Activities	0
(119)	Increase to funds received in the year	(0)
(609)	Balance as at the 31st March	(490)

These funds are received from the Home Office as part of the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS), plus some funds seized as part of ongoing SRS cases that will be held until otherwise instructed by the court. The funds are generated within the Trading Standards discipline.

These funds also include the deferred element of a new SRS income source. Previously all licensing income was collected and held by the partner authorities, but a new 3-year license was required this year for some businesses. The carry value of income due to be released in later financial years is split between short-term and long-term liabilities.

19. Movement on Unusable Reserves

	Pension Reserves £'000	Accumulated Absences £'000	Capital Adjustment £'000	Total Unusable Reserves £'000
Balance as at 1st April 2023	(3,450)	(113)	103	(3,460)
Increase/(Decrease)	2,670	(40)	(32)	2,598
Balance as at 31st March 2024	(780)	(153)	71	(862)
	(780)	(153)		(862)
Balance as at 1st April 2024			71	
Increase/(Decrease)	80	(51)	44	73
Balance as at 31st March 2025	(700)	(204)	115	(789)

20. Pension Reserve

The Pension Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions.

2024/25 £'000	Pensions Reserve	2023/24 £'000
(780)	Balance as at the 1st April	(3,450)
30	Re-measurements of net defined liability/(asset)	2,790
(1,350)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES	(1,470)
1,400	Employers pension contribution and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	1,350
(700)	Balance as at the 31st March	(780)

21. Short Term Accumulated Absence Account

The short-term accumulated absence account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on SRS reserves from accruing for compensated absences earned but not yet taken in the financial year i.e. annual leave carried forward at 31st March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the SRS Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to/from the Account.

For the second consecutive year, during 2024/25 we have seen a reduction in the consumption of annual leave. We believe this to be as a result of the pressures within the service due to increased regulations and vacant posts as well the timing of Easter and have therefore noted a subsequent increase in the accumulated absences carrying value for the period

2024/25 £'000	Accumulated Absences Account	2023/24 £'000
(153)	Balance as at 1st April	(113)
(204)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(153)
153	Reversal of prior year accrual	113
(204)	Balance as at 31st March	(153)

22. Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption on non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.

2024/25 £'000	Capital Adjustment Account	2023/24 £'000
71	Balance as at 1st April	103
(21)	Charges for depreciation of Non-Current Assets	(56)
0	Amortisation of Intangible Assets	0
0	Write out vehicle net disposal costs	0
65	Capital Expenditure charged against the Joint Committee Balance (CERA)	24
115	Balance as at 31st March	71

23. Retirement Benefits Defined Benefit Schemes

Local Government Pension Scheme Funded Benefits

The disclosures below relate to the Joint Committee's share of the funded liabilities within the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Pension Fund (the Fund) which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (the LGPS). The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan with benefits earned up to 31st March 2014 linked to the final salary. Benefits earned after 31st March 2014 are based on a Career Average Revalued Earnings scheme. Details of the benefits to be paid over the period covered by this disclosure are set out in the 'Local Government Pension Scheme (Transitional Provision, Savings and Amendment) Regulations 2014'.

The funded nature of the LGPS requires the Employer and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Information on the framework for calculating contributions is set out in the 'LGPS Regulations 2013' and the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement. The last actuarial valuation was at 31st March 2022.

The Fund Administering Authority, City and County of Cardiff is responsible for the governance of the Fund. Additional contributions may also become due in respect of any employer discretions to enhance members' benefits in the fund over the next accounting period.

Liabilities have been estimated by an independent qualified actuary on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method.

Roll Forward Approach

The Actuarial report has been calculated using the Roll Forward approach. The roll forward approach is a method of approximately calculating pension scheme assets and liabilities by adjusting the results of the last full actuarial valuation exercise.

2022 Actuarial Valuation

These results allow for the 2022 Actuarial Valuation of the Fund. The effect of allowing for this is shown in the "Actuarial (gains)/losses due to the liability experience" and the "Return on plan assets (in excess of) below that recognised in the net interest" and is reflected in the balance sheet position. The demographic assumptions have also been updated to reflect those used for the 2022 Actuarial Valuation. These changes have had a positive or negative effect on the balance sheet position. The Current Service Cost has also been updated to reflect the employer's membership data as at the 2022 valuation.

Assets Returns

Asset Returns over the accounting period have been lower than expected. This had led to a loss on assets over the accounting period and a worsening of the balance sheet position.

Financial Assumptions

There has been a change to the financial assumptions over the period. The discount rate has increased by 1.10%, the CPI inflation assumption has reduced by 0.10%, and the salary increase assumption has reduced by 0.10%. This has resulted in a more positive balance sheet position than if the financial assumptions at the start of the period had been used. The impact of this change is recognised in Other Comprehensive Income.

Demographic Assumptions

Other demographic assumptions are the rates of withdrawal and ill health retirements (for active members). The allowance made for cash commutation on retirement, the proportion of members whose death gives rise to a dependants pension and the assumed levels of promotional salary increases. These assumptions have been kept as the same as those adopted for the 2022 Valuation.

Impact of Covid-19 on Mortality

The impact on longevity for the Funds members will be affected by the indirect impact of Covid 19, including the health of the surviving population, and the economic, social and political consequences of tackling Covid 19.

The UK experienced very high level of excess death (measured using 2019 experience as a baseline) in the late part of 2022 and continued to see elevated mortality in early 2023. However, population-level mortality in the last months of 2023 was more in line with historic norms. In the view set out in the actuarial report

- Some of the factors driving the previous excess (in particular the 2022-23 flu season which was significantly earlier than typical) are likely to be temporary, and
- Some of the excess may be related to longer delays between deaths occurring and being reported.

The actuarial report set out a recommendation of an allowance for future mortality improvements, a parameter of 0.5% is also utilised to recognise that members of defined benefit schemes generally experience faster rates of longevity improvement relative to the UK population.

At this accounting date the actuary adopts the latest CMI 2023 projected mortality model with smoothing factor and reduces the rate longevity improvement rate from 1.5% to 1.25% per annum this change is expected to reduce liabilities by 0.6% to 1% for most employers.

Key Assumptions

The principal assumptions used by the actuary in updating the latest valuation of the Fund for IAS purposes were:

	31st March 2025 % per annum	31st March 2024 % per annum
Discount Rate	5.80%	4.70%
CPI Inflation	2.50%	2.60%
Rate of Increase to Pensions in Payment	2.50%	2.60%
Pension Accounts Revaluations Rate	2.50%	2.60%
Rate of Increase in Salaries	3.50%	3.60%

- The duration of the liabilities is the average period between the calculation date and the date at which benefit payments fall due. Durations will be calculated based on the output of the most recent valuation exercise of the Employer's funded liabilities.
- Employers may also prepare a separate disclosure note for their unfunded benefit schemes' which pay pensions awarded at retirement on a discretionary basis. The duration of the unfunded liabilities will usually be

shorter than the duration of the LGPS benefits. In the interest of pragmatism and practicality it is recommended that the financial assumptions used to report the unfunded scheme liabilities are the same as those used for valuing funded benefits.

- Pension increases on pension in excess of the Guaranteed Minimum Pension in payment where appropriate.
- It is recommended that the assumption for the revaluation rate of pension accounts is set equal to the assumption for pension increases.
- The defined benefit obligation has been adjusted to allow for salary increases. This impacts the value of active members' liabilities that remain linked to final salary.
- The mortality tables shown apply to normal health retirements. Different rates may apply to retirements in ill health.

Post Retirement Mortality (Retirement in Normal Health)

The mortality assumptions are based on actual mortality experience of members within the Fund based on analysis carried out as part of the 2022 Actuarial Valuation and allow for expected future mortality improvements. Sample life expectations at age 65 in normal health resulting from these mortality assumptions are shown below.

Post Retirement Mortality	31st March 2025	31st March 2024
Males		
Pensioner Member Aged 65 at Accounting Date	21.9	22.1
Active Member Aged 45 at Accounting Date	22.2	22.7
Females		
Pensioner Member Aged 65 at Accounting Date	24.2	24.3
Active Member Aged 45 at Accounting Date	25.0	25.3

The majority of the Fund's obligations are to provide benefits for the life of a member following retirement, so increases in life expectancy will result in an increase in liabilities.

The approximate split of assets for the Fund as a whole (based on data supplied by the Fund Administering Authority) is shown in the table below. The assets allocated to the employer in the Fund are notional and the assets are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund set out below for the purposes of calculating the return to be applied to these notional assets. The Fund is sizeable and largely liquid, and as a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if the situation arises. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split for the Fund as a whole is included in the disclosures.

The Administering Authority does not invest in property or assets related to itself. It is possible, however, that assets may be invested in shares relating to some of the private sector employers participating in the Fund if it forms part of their balanced investment strategy.

Asset Allocation

	Asset Split as at 31st March 2025	Asset Split as at 31st March 2024
Quoted Equities	67.60%	69.70%
Property	5.80%	6.30%
Government Bonds	7.50%	8.40%
Corporate Bonds	5.10%	7.30%
Multi Asset Credit	5.20%	5.40%
Cash	0.50%	2.30%
Other	8.30%	0.60%
Total	100.00%	100.00%

Reconciliation of Funded Status to Balance Sheet

	Value at 31st March 2025 £M	Value at 31st March 2024 £M
Fair Value of Assets	44.350	41.500
Present Value of Funded Defined Benefit Obligation	(35.070)	(41.880)
Funded Status	9.280	(0.380)
Unrecognised Asset	(9.280)	0.000
Additional liability due to minimum funding requirement	(0.700)	(0.400)
(Liability) Recognised on the Balance Sheet	(0.700)	(0.780)

The split of the defined benefit obligation at the last valuation date between the various categories of members was as follows:

Active Members	73%
Deferred Pensioners	11%
Pensioners	16%

Employers who leave the Fund (or their guarantor) may have to make an exit payment to meet any shortfall in assets against their pension liabilities. If the employer (or guarantor) is not able to meet this exit payment the liability may in certain circumstances fall on other employers in the Fund. Furthermore, the assets at exit in respect of 'Orphan Liabilities' may in retrospect not be sufficient to meet the liabilities. The risk may fall on other employers. 'Orphan Liabilities' are currently a small proportion of the overall liabilities in the Fund.

Duration of Liabilities

The Employer's regular contribution to the Fund for accounting period ended 31st March 2025 are estimated to be £1.40m, with the duration of liabilities being 22.1 years.

Breakdown of Amounts Recognised in Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services and Other Comprehensive Income

	Period Ending 31st March 2025	Period Ending 31st March 2024
Operating Cost	£M	£M
Current Service Cost	1.34	1.35
Past Service Cost (including curtailments)	0.00	0.00
Settlement Cost	0.00	0.00
Financing Cost		
Interest on Net Defined Benefit Liability/(Asset) before asset restriction	(0.01)	0.12
Interest on additional liability due to minimum funding requirement	0.02	0.00
Pension Expense Recognised in Surplus or Deficit	1.35	1.47
Re-measurements in Other Comprehensive Income		
Return on Plan Assets (in excess of)/below that recognised in Net Interest	0.46	(2.48)
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses due to Changes in Financial Assumptions	(9.75)	(0.91)
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses due to Changes in Demographic Assumptions	(0.35)	(0.58)
Actuarial (gains) losses due to liability experience	0.05	0.78
Actuarial loss/ (Gain) due to restriction surplus	9.28	0.00
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses due to minimum funding requirement	0.28	0.40
Total Amount Recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(0.03)	(2.79)
Total Amount Recognised in Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	1.32	(1.32)

The current service costs included an allowance for the administration expenses of £0.04M at 31st March 2025.

Changes to the Present Value of the Defined Obligation During the Period

	Period Ending 31st March 2025	Period Ending 31st March 2024
	£M	£M
Opening Defined Benefit Obligation	41.88	39.44
Current Service Cost	1.34	1.35
Interest Expense on Defined Benefit Obligation	1.97	1.81
Contribution by Participants	0.49	0.49

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

Actuarial (Gains)/Losses due to Changes in Financial Assumptions	(9.75)	(0.91)
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses due to Changes in Demographic Assumptions	(0.35)	(0.58)
Actuarial (Gains)/Losses due to Liability Experience	0.05	0.78
Net Benefits Paid Out	(0.56)	(0.50)
Past Service Cost Including Curtailments	0.00	0.00
Net Increase in Liabilities from Disposals/Acquisitions	0.00	0.00
Settlements	0.00	0.00
Closing Defined Benefit Obligation	35.07	41.88

Changes to the Fair Value of Assets during the Accounting Period

	Period Ending 31st March 2024 £M	Period Ending 31st March 2024 £M
Opening Fair Value of Assets	41.50	35.99
Interest Income on Assets	1.98	1.69
Re-measurements Gains/(Losses) on Assets	(0.46)	2.48
Contributions by the Employer	1.40	1.35
Contribution by the Participant	0.49	0.49
Net Benefits Paid out	(0.56)	(0.50)
Net increase in Assets from Disposals/Acquisitions	0.00	0.00
Settlements	0.00	0.00
Closing Fair Value of Assets	44.35	41.50

Actual Return on Assets

	Period Ending 31st March 2025 £M	Period Ending 31st March 2024 £M
Interest Income on Assets	1.98	1.69
Re-measurements Gains/(Losses) on Assets	(0.46)	2.48
Actual Return on Assets	1.52	4.17

Estimated Pension Expense in Future Periods

Detailed below is an estimate of the charges to the profit and loss account in future periods, based on the actuarial assumptions as at 31st March 2025.

Funded Benefits	Period Ending 31st March 2027 £M	Period Ending 31st March 2026 £M
Interest on net defined benefit liability	(0.04)	0.00
Current Service cost	0.89	0.86
Actual Return on Assets	0.85	0.86
Allowance for administration expenses included in Current Service Cost (£M)	0.05	0.05
Estimated pensionable payroll over the period (£M)	7.78	7.52

Sensitivity Analysis of Projected Service Costs 2024/25

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions. The sensitivity analysis below has been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be inter-related. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those in the previous period. Projected service cost in the sensitivity analysis below is the projected service cost for the period ending 31st March 2025.

Discount Rate Assumption

Adjustment to Discount Rate	+0.1% p.a.	Base Figure	-0.1% p.a.
Present Value of Obligation (£M)	34.37	35.07	35.77
% Change in Present Value of Total Obligation	(2.0%)		2.0%
Projected Service Cost (£M)	0.82	0.86	0.90
Approximate % Change in Projected Service Cost	(4.8%)		4.9%

Rate of General Increase in Salaries

Adjustment to Salary Increase Rate	+0.1% p.a.	Base Figure	-0.1% p.a.
Present Value of Total Obligation (£M)	35.21	35.07	34.93
% Change in Present Value of Total Obligation	0.4%		(0.4%)
Projected Service Cost (£M)	0.86	0.86	0.86
Approximate % Change in Projected Service Cost	0.0%		0.0%

Rate of Increase to Pensions and Rate of Revaluation of Pension Accounts

Adjustment to Pension Increase Rate	+0.1% p.a.	Base Figure	-0.1% p.a.
Present Value of Total Obligation (£M)	35.63	35.07	34.51
% Change in Present Value of Total Obligation	1.6%		(1.6%)
Projected Service Cost (£M)	0.90	0.86	0.82
Approximate % Change in Projected Service Cost	4.9%		(4.8%)

Post Retirement Mortality Assumption

Adjustment to Mortality Age Rating Assumption	- 1 year	Base Figure	+ 1 year
Present Value of Total Obligation (£M)	35.88	35.07	34.26
% Change in Present Value of Total Obligation	2.3%		(2.3%)
Projected Service Cost (£M)	0.89	0.86	0.83
Approximate % Change in Projected Service Cost	3.8%		(3.8%)

- A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern for the base table for an individual that is 1 year older than them.

24. Employee Emoluments

Officers Remunerated in Excess of £60,000

The number of employees whose remuneration, excluding employer's pension contributions but including redundancy costs, were over £60,000 or more in bands of £5,000 are shown below. This includes the members of senior leadership within the service.

Remuneration Band	2024/25 No of Employees	2023/24 No of Employees
£60,000 - £64,999	1	4
£65,000 - £69,999	3	0
£70,000 - £74,999	0	0
£75,000 - £79,999	0	0
£80,000 - £84,999	0	0
£85,000 - £89,999	0	0
£90,000 - £94,999	0	1
£95,000 - £99,999	1	0
£100,000 - £104,999	0	0
£105,000 - £109,999	0	0
£110,000 - £114,999	0	0

Senior Management

Four senior officers within Shared Regulatory Services breached the £60,000 salary threshold in both 2023/24 and 2024/25. As shown in the tables below:

Senior Officer Emoluments 2024/25	Salary £	Pension Contributions £	Total Remuneration £
SRS Head of Service	97,319	18,783	116,102
Commercial Services OM	65,006	12,546	77,552
Neighbourhood Services OM	65,006	12,546	77,552
Enterprise & Specialist Services OM	65,006	12,546	77,552
Total	292,337	56,421	348,758

Senior Officer Emoluments 2023/24	Salary £	Pension Contributions £	Total Remuneration £
SRS Head of Service	92,843	17,919	110,762
Neighbourhood Services OM	63,420	12,240	75,660
Enterprise & Specialist Services OM	63,420	12,240	75,660
Commercial Services OM	63,420	12,240	75,660
Total	283,103	54,639	337,742

The Management Committee members of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee are employed directly by the partner authorities and their remuneration is not reflected in the accounts or the remuneration disclosures.

The Pension Contribution shown above includes the deficit recovery element of the contributions made to Cardiff and Vale Pension Fund.

The designated Section 151 Officer for the Joint Committee is the Section 151 Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Council as host authority. No remuneration for this post has been charged to the accounts or is included in the disclosure notes.

Exit Packages

There were no exit packages paid in either 2024/25 or 2023/24.

25. Interest

Interest is paid based on monthly average cash balances due to/from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The increase in the 2024/25 average interest earned is the direct result of an increase on asset balances held by the SRS.

	2024/25 £	%	2023/24 £	%
Interest (Charged)/Received on the SRS Account Balances	£36,180	4.8%	£15,907.00	4.6%

26. Contingent Liability

Virgin Media Ruling and Pension Liability

There are potential financial impacts associated with a recent Virgin Media ruling in respect of Pension Funds. The Council's Actuary have advised that there is no consideration of any potential impact as part of the review reflected in the 2024/25 accounts. The Government Actuaries Department (GAD) are the Scheme Actuary to the LGPS and so they will be advising the Ministry for Housing and Local Government if the appropriate Section 37 documentation is in place and therefore if there is likely to be any impact from the ruling.

Comprehensive Glossary

Accounting Period

The period of time covered by the accounts, typically a period of 12 months commencing on 1st April. The end of the accounting period is the balance sheet date.

Accounting Policies

The specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by the Council on behalf on the Joint Committee in preparing and presenting its financial statements.

Accruals

Amounts included in the final accounts to recognise revenue and capital income and expenditures earned or incurred in the financial year, but for which actual payment had not been received or made as at 31st March.

Actuarial Gains and Losses

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial surpluses or deficits that arise because of events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains or losses); or the actuarial assumptions have varied.

Amortisation

The gradual elimination of a liability, such as a loan, funded in regular payments over a specified period of time. Such payments must be sufficient to cover both principal and interest.

Asset

An item having value to the authority in monetary terms. Assets are classed as either current or non-current;

- A current asset will be consumed or cease to have material value within the next financial year (e.g. cash and stock).
- A non-current asset provides benefits to the Authority and to the services it provides for a period of more than one year and may be tangible e.g. a building or vehicle, or intangible e.g. computer software licenses.

Balance Sheet

A statement in the recorded assets, liabilities and reserves at the end of the accounting period.

Capital Financing

Funds obtained to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, direct revenue financing, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contributions, revenue reserves and earmarked reserves.

Cash Equivalents

Short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account

The revenue account of the Shared Regulatory Service (SRS) that reports the net cost for the year of the functions for which it is responsible and demonstrates how that cost has been financed from budgeted contributions, grants and other income.

Creditor

Amount owed by the SRS for works done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been made by the end of that accounting period.

Current Service Cost (Pensions)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefit pension scheme's liabilities, expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

Debtor

Amount owed to the SRS for works done, goods received, or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been received by the end of that accounting period.

Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Pension schemes in which the benefits received by the participants are independent of the contributions paid and are not directly related to the investments of the scheme.

Depreciation

The measure of the cost of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of the SRS's non-current assets during the accounting period, whether from use, the passage of time, or obsolescence through technological or other changes.

Discretionary Benefits (Pensions)

Retirement benefits which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and are awarded under the Authority's (Vale of Glamorgan Council as Host) discretionary powers such as the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007.

Effective Interest Rate

This is the rate of interest needed to discount the estimated stream of principal and interest cash flows through the expected life of a financial instrument to equal the amount at initial recognition.

Employee Benefits

All forms of consideration given by the SRS in exchange for services rendered by its employees.

Events After the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the balance sheet date are those events, favourable or unfavourable, that arise between the balance sheet and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

Exceptional Items

Material items which derive from affairs or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the SRS and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts.

Expected Return on Pension Assets

For a funded defined benefit scheme, this is the average rate of return, including both income and changes in fair value but net of scheme expenses, which is expected over the remaining life of the related obligation on the actual assets held by the scheme.

Extraordinary Items

Material items, having a high degree of abnormality, which derive from events or transactions that fall outside the ordinary activities of the authority and which are not expected to recur. They do not include exceptional items, nor do they include prior period items merely because they relate to a prior period.

Fair Value

The fair value of an asset is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's-length transaction.

Financial Instruments

Any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instruments of another. The term covers both financial assets and financial liabilities, from straightforward trade receivables (invoices owing) and trade payables (invoices owed) to complex derivatives and embedded derivatives.

Going Concern

The concept that the Statement of Accounts are prepared on the assumption that the SRS will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

Impairment

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset to below its carrying amount on the balance sheet. Impairment may be caused by a consumption of economic benefit (economic benefit impairment) of a general fall in prices.

Intangible Assets

An intangible asset is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance. Intangible assets are most frequently found in local authority computer software.

Liability

A liability is where the SRS owes payment to an individual or another organisation.

- A current liability is an amount which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period, e.g. creditors or cash overdrawn.
- A deferred liability is an amount which by arrangement is payable beyond the next year at some point in the future or to be paid off by an accrual sum over a period of time.

Materiality

The concept that the Statement of Accounts should contain all amounts which, if omitted, or misstated, could be expected to lead to a distortion of the financial statements and ultimately mislead the user of the accounts.

Net Book Value

The amount at which non-current assets are included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historical costs or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation and impairment.

Past Service Cost (Pensions)

For a defined pension scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme's liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to retirement benefits.

Pension Scheme Liabilities

The liabilities of a defined benefit scheme for outgoings due after the valuation date. Scheme liabilities measured using the projected unit method reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

Prior Year Adjustment

Material adjustments relating to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. This does not include normal recurring correction or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

Provision

An amount put aside in the accounts for future liabilities or losses which are certain or very likely to occur, but the amounts or dates of when they will arise are uncertain.

Related Parties

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial or operating decisions.

Re-measurement of Pension Liability

Changes to the pension liability made to reflect the return on plan assets and because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions.

Reserves

The accumulation of surpluses, deficits and appropriations over past years. Reserves of a revenue nature are available can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the SRS.

Residual Value

The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life.

Useful Economic Life (UEL)

The period over which the SRS will derive benefits from the use of a non-current asset.

Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

About Shared Regulatory Services

Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) came into being on 1st May 2015, having been commissioned by the three Local Authorities of:

- The City of Cardiff County Council
- Bridgend County Borough Council, and
- The Vale of Glamorgan Council.

SRS provides the Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing functions across the three-Council region and in so doing serves just over a fifth of the population of Wales. Within this wide remit, many of the services delivered are statutory while others are non-statutory.

Scope of Responsibility

Shared Regulatory Services is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that financial contributions allocated by the partner Authorities are safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The SRS sees Corporate Governance as doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. Strong transparent and responsive governance enables the SRS to put the residents of the SRS region first by pursuing its aims and priorities effectively, and by underpinning them with appropriate mechanisms for managing performance and risk. In order to maintain residents' confidence these mechanisms must be sound and seen to be sound.

The scope of the Service is captured in the Joint Working Agreement (JWA). Some of the functions provided are legally mandated, statutory requirements, including the role of the Weights and Measures authority and the duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. Others are non-statutory but have been adopted to support the core Regulatory function and to support the corporate objectives of each partner Council. Examples include consumer advice and accreditation of landlords.

All of the Regulatory functions provided are underpinned by the following principles:

- This is a strategically led service with a clear focus upon the relevant corporate priorities of the partner authorities, i.e. safeguarding the vulnerable and promoting economic development.
- A clear focus upon the National Enforcement priorities for regulatory services.
- The use of a risk-based approach to all activities.
- The service meets standards set out in the Regulators Compliance Code and above all the maximisation of resources through income generation and partnership working to promote public health and wellbeing.

The Shared Regulatory Service is *not* responsible for:

- Determination of licensing applications in relation to the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act 2005, the Local Government Act 1976, the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847 or any licensing legislation where objections have been raised and an elected member decision is required;
- The decision to declare an air Quality Management area;
- Instituting legal proceedings in respect of prosecution, forfeiture or other Court process;
- House to Homes funding; or
- Anything that requires a council decision, e.g. Declaration of Additional Licensing area.

The participants have agreed and have formed a Joint Committee to provide the Shared Regulatory Service and have delegated to the Joint Committee the Regulatory Services Functions as set in in Schedule 1 Part 1 of the JWA.

The purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which an organisation is directed and controlled, and activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables an organisation to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, priorities, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The system of internal control is an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of aims and objectives. It also evaluates the likelihood and impact of those risks materialising, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The following paragraphs summarise the overall governance framework and the system of internal control, which has been in place for the Shared Regulatory Services for the period covering 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

The Governance Framework

The CIPFA/Solace governance framework “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government 2016” sets out the seven core fundamental principles of good governance as follows:

- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
- Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

- Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

This Governance Statement has used these principles to demonstrate how the overall governance arrangements for the Shared Regulatory Service for the period covering 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 are deemed to be satisfactory. The Governance Statement does not document policies, procedures and working practices under each of these principles, but instead provides an overview of the governance and internal control processes and systems.

Joint Working Agreement (Legal Agreement)

On 10th April 2015, all parties formally signed the Joint Working Agreement with an agreed commencement date of 1st May 2015. The Joint Working Agreement provides the governance framework within which the Service operates and allocates responsibility and accountability, as follows:

- The Host Authority
- The Joint Committee
- Management Board
- Head of Regulatory Services; and
- Financial Management.

The Joint Working Agreement is a detailed document which sets out the criteria and expectations for matters which include, but are not limited to:

- The role of the Joint Committee and Management Board including Terms of Reference;
- The role of the Head of Regulatory Services;
- Financial matters and Lead Finance Officer role;
- Levels of service to be provided;
- Employees;
- Records and access to information including Data Protection and information governance;
- Termination and rights to withdraw; and
- Governing law and jurisdiction.

The Joint Working Agreement is kept under review and was last updated in 2017 to take account of data governance considerations. This revision was agreed by the three partner Councils and formally reported to them.

The Host Authority

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

The Joint Working Agreement formally assigns the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the Host Authority for the Shared Regulatory Service. The Vale of Glamorgan Council provides all support services for all those services within scope (save for the day to day administration undertaken by staff in accordance with their duties), required, including but not limited to:

- Financial (Section 151 Officer as defined by section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, Accounts, Payroll, Creditors etc.)
- Human Resources
- Health & Safety
- Legal and
- Internal Audit

The Management Board

Sitting beneath the Joint Committee on the governance structure is an officer Management Board (MB). The composition, operation and Terms of Reference of the MB are set out in the Joint Working Agreement at Schedule 3. The MB is described as a high-level project/sounding board which operates from a strategic and operational level. The MB comprises of “one officer representative from and nominated by each of the Participants and the Head of Regulatory Services”. Therefore, the membership of the MB is as follows:

- Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services (BCBC)
- Assistant Director Street Scene (CCC)
- Director of Environment and Housing (VoGC)
- Head of Shared Regulatory Services (VoGC)

Financial Management

Section 11 of the Joint Working Agreement provides the framework within which the finances of the Shared Regulatory Services operate. The Joint Committee has adopted the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts (however expressed) of the Host Authority. In accordance with the requirements of the Joint Working Agreement, the Joint Committee considered SRS annual budget for 2025/26 at its December 2024 meeting, and by agreement deferred confirmation of the draft budget until an extraordinary meeting of the Joint Committee in January 2025.

Service Structure

At the commencement of the Shared Regulatory Service on 1st May 2015, some 170 “in- scope” employees had successfully transferred from BCBC and CC to the host employer (VoGC). The new structure for the Shared Regulatory Service was fully completed by 1st December 2015. The Service has approximately 180 Full Time

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

Equivalent (FTE) employees in total and is currently accessed and delivered through delivery hubs across the Bridgend, Cardiff and Vale boundaries.

Review of Effectiveness

Detailed within Schedule 5, of the JWA it states that the Host's external auditor (Auditor General for Wales) will be the external auditor of the Shared Regulatory Service. It also states that, following each year-end, the Host is required to prepare the annual accounts for the Joint Committee and Management Board and ensure that all relevant information is available for external inspection.

The Shared Regulatory Service also has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of the effectiveness is informed, in part, by the work of Internal Audit but also by the work undertaken by the overall Shared Regulatory Service's Structure of which there are nine tiers, these being:

- Joint Committee
- Management Board
- Head of Shared Regulatory Services
- Operational Managers
- Team Managers
- Professional
- Senior Technical
- Technical and
- Support

During 2024/25 the Joint Committee received regular reports as set out in their "Dates and Deadlines" timetable which shows the meetings scheduled quarterly for a period up to twelve months. In addition, the Joint Committee's Terms of Reference are clearly set out in the JWA.

Service delivery

The continued squeeze on public sector finances, and the resultant need to make additional savings continues to be a significant challenge for the Service. This at a time of new areas of Government legislation and enforcement expectation which comes with no dedicated funding associated with it. The ability of the Service to generate income or at least cover costs, was severely hampered during the course of the pandemic. Fortunately, 2024/25 has seen income generation recover well, and thought now turns to identifying new income streams and models for cost recovery across the SRS areas of responsibility.

SRS continue to adopt a 'growing our own' approach in response to wider recruitment and retention pressures. This is already delivering positive outcomes.

Service challenges

The focus for 2025/26 will be on the following challenges:

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

- Recruitment and retention;
- The cost-of-living crisis;
- Climate change agenda and related enforcement
- The enactment of new areas of public protection law and government expectations around their enforcement without dedicated funding being made available to support this work; and
- Delivering the Service within a reduced budget.

Internal Audit

During 2024/25, internal audit undertook a review of the Shared Regulatory Services governance framework. The objective of the audit was to provide the necessary assurance to the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee at the June 2025 AGM that financial controls of the service are operating effectively and in compliance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

The objectives of the review were to ascertain the extent to which the assessed risks have been identified and managed and to evaluate whether effective controls which mitigate the risks have been established within the systems and processes and that these have operated effectively throughout the period under review.

Through testing, the auditor was able to determine that the control environment in relation to the governance arrangements over financial and other related controls including budget monitoring/reporting and procurement processes across the Shared Regulatory Services was deemed to have "Reasonable Assurance".

The Audit identified a number of strengths that are set out below

- Joint Committee has held quarterly, quorate meetings during 2024/25 financial year.
- A functioning Management Board is in place to support the Joint Committee.
- Joint Committee have been provided with Quarterly Revenue Monitoring Reports detailing financial performance of the SRS during 2024/25 financial year.
- Sample testing demonstrated that there is clear segregation of duties within the ordering and payment process.
- All Purchasing Card transactions reviewed had prior authorisation from the relevant budget holder and accompanying receipt / delivery note retained on file.
- All petty cash disbursements reviewed were supported by receipted vouchers.

The Internal Audit was very comprehensive and two issues were identified and associated recommendations were made by internal audit.

- Apportionment of the 2024/25 Core Services partner contributions was not based on the 'total population' of each authority as required in Joint Working Arrangement.

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

- One of the service's Imprest Accounts only has one signatory whereas 3 staff members are required.

The recommendations following the audit are set out below and a Management Action Plan will be completed in response to these recommendations.

1. In accordance with the JWA, the apportionment of the annual financial contributions due from each Partner in respect of Core Services should be based on the total population of each authority as set out in the Welsh Government's 'Green Book'.
2. In accordance with Financial Procedure Notes, the service should ensure all Imprest Account(s) have 3 authorised signatories, who are current SRS members of staff, appended to the account(s), with 2 signatures required on all imprest cheques.

Steps will now be taken through the Management Action Plan to address the areas identified with recommendations for improvement as part of the audit and steps taken to review and rationalise Petty Cash and Imprest Accounts and introduce more Purchase Cards in the service.

During the 2024/25 financial year Internal Audit also reviewed Shared Regulatory Service Income the objective of this audit was to provide assurance that the processes in place to collect income within the Shared Regulatory Service are effective and efficient. The audit provided reasonable assurance with a recommendation that the Joint Committee & Partner Authorities should agree and document the classification of all fees and charges levied by the SRS as either income accruing for the benefit of a relevant Partner Authority ("legacy" income) or the Joint Committee ("new" income). Where any such "legacy" income is received by the SRS, this should be repaid to the relevant Partner Authority in a timely manner and not reported as "new" income. Additionally, the SRS should conduct a review of the various income streams across all Partner Authorities to ensure that all income is being collected, accurately recorded and reported, and distributed to the appropriate partner in the most efficient way. A review has been commenced in 2025/26 and should complete by the end of the financial year.

In respect of the actions identified as part of 2023/24 progress has been made in respect of the recommendation regarding expenses and supporting information, and purchase card transactions. Further work is needed in respect of budget setting and petty cash accounts. The Shared Regulatory Service also need to develop more medium term budget planning approach which will be considered as part of the 2027/28 budget setting.

Internal Audit has also completed a review of the Illegal Money Lending Unit. The purpose of the audit is to provide assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control, governance and risk management arrangements in respect of Illegal Money Lending Grant 2024/25. This review has determined substantial assurance in respect of the controls in this area, meaning that a sound system of governance, risk management and control exists, with internal controls operating effectively and being consistently applied.

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

The 2024/25 Statement of Accounts will be audited by the Vale of Glamorgan's External Auditors – Auditor General for Wales and reported to the Joint Committee in accordance with the Joint Working Agreement.

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

The Joint Working Agreement (signed and sealed by all the relevant participants) together with the participant Councils' Constitutions clearly demonstrate that officers are delegated to execute the Joint Working Agreement. The Joint Working Agreement has been reviewed to ensure it remains effective.

The Management Board has been set up in accordance with the Joint Working Agreement and a schedule of meeting dates has been set for the year in accordance with the requirements of the Joint Committee. The Management Board continues to operate effectively and in accordance with its terms of reference.

In accordance with clause 5.1 of the Joint Working Agreement, the Head of Shared Regulatory Services and the Section 151 Officer are to prepare the Annual Report for the period 2024/25, which is to be presented to the Joint Committee in June 2025. Following the completion of the audit, the final Statement of Accounts will be presented to Committee to be approved and signed by the Committee Chair.

Significant Governance Issues

There were no significant governance issues to raise during 2024/25

Definitions

Definition of Governance: A series of policies, roles, responsibilities and processes that set the way an organisation is directed, administrated and controlled.

Definition of a Significant Governance Issue: A specific area of the Organisation's work that requires Senior Management attention to ensure that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner, to support improved outcomes for local people.

Certification of Annual Governance Statement

We can confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this statement provides an accurate and fair view of the overall governance arrangements for the Shared Regulatory Services.

Signed:

Chair of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee

Shared Regulatory Service Joint Committee

Signed:
Matt Bowmer – Section 151 Officer

Audit of Accounts Report – Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee

Audit year: 2024-25

Issued: March 2026

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Contents

Contents	2
Introduction	4
Your audit at a glance	5
Materiality	6
Audit Findings	7
Audit team and ethical compliance	9
Appendix 1 – Audit risks and outcomes	11
Appendix 2 – Summary of corrections made	16
Appendix 3 – Proposed audit report	18
Appendix 4 – Letter of representation	24
Appendix 5 – Recommendation	27
Audit quality	30
Supporting you	31

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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Introduction



Adrian Crompton

Auditor General for
Wales

I am pleased to share my Audit of Accounts Report. The Report summarises the main findings from my audit of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's (the Committee's) 2024-25 Statement of Accounts. My team has already discussed these findings with the relevant senior officers.

My team has substantially completed the audit work as set out in my Audit Plan that I issued in September 2025.

Since my Audit Plan, I have updated materiality to reflect the 2024-25 accounts.

I am required to provide an opinion on whether the accounts have been properly prepared and give a materially true and fair view. My proposed audit opinion and basis for it is outlined on page 5.

It is the responsibility of those charged with governance, being the Committee's Members, to address any matters raised in my report and to provide me with a Letter of Representation (as set out in **Appendix 4**).

I would like to thank officers for their cooperation and help throughout the audit process.

Your audit at a glance



I intend to issue an **unqualified opinion** on the accounts.

See [Appendix 3](#)



There is one **other significant matter** to report.

See [Audit findings](#)



There are no non-trivial **uncorrected misstatements** in the accounts.

See [Audit findings](#)



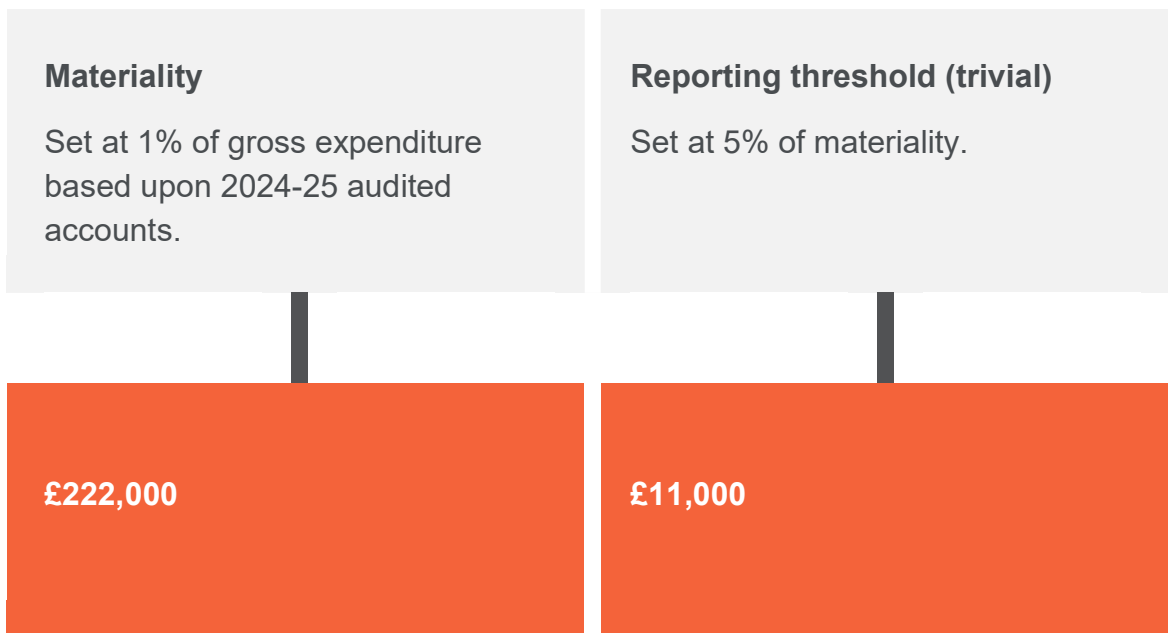
I have raised one **audit recommendation**, which is set out in [Appendix 5](#).



I am aiming to certify your accounts on 27 March 2026.

Materiality

I use professional judgement to set a materiality threshold to identify and correct misstatements that could affect users' decisions, considering both financial errors and disclosure requirements according to the applicable accounting framework and laws. My team updates materiality throughout the audit and I include in this report matters that exceed my reporting threshold, as set out below:



There are some areas of the accounts that may be of more importance to the user of the accounts. I confirm lower materiality levels for these:



Audit Findings

Misstatements

A misstatement arises where information in the accounts is not in accordance with accounting standards.

Uncorrected misstatements

Officers corrected all the identified non-trivial misstatements and therefore there are no uncorrected misstatements to report.

Corrected misstatements

I identified misstatements that have been corrected by management, but which I consider should be drawn to your attention. They are set out in [Appendix 2](#).

Other significant issues

International Standard on Auditing 260 requires us to communicate with those charged with governance. I must tell you significant findings from the audit and other matters if they are significant to your oversight of the Committee's financial reporting process.

Last year we reported that we experienced significant delays with the Council addressing our information requests and audit queries. These matters resulted in the audit process being protracted, and an increased audit cost.

While there has been an improvement this year, there have been some delays responding to audit queries, including where the finance team was reliant on information from service areas. The delays, alongside some of the audit issues arising, extended the completion of the audit testing and its cost.

Proposed audit opinion

Audit opinion

I intend to issue an unqualified audit opinion on this year's accounts once you have provided me with a Letter of Representation.

Our proposed audit report is set out in **Appendix 3**.

Letter of representation

A Letter of Representation is a formal letter in which you confirm to us the accuracy and completeness of information provided to us during the audit. Some of this information is required by auditing standards; other information may relate specifically to your audit.

The letter I am requesting you to sign is included in **Appendix 4**, the contents of which are in line with my standard request for representations.

Recommendation

At **Appendix 5** I have raised one recommendation for improvement, together with management's response.

Audit team and ethical compliance

The members of my team who carried out the audit work, together with their contact details, are summarised in **Exhibit 1**.

Exhibit 1: my local audit team

Audit Director

Gareth Lucey

gareth.lucey@audit.wales

Audit Manager

Mark Jones

mark.jones@audit.wales

Audit Lead

Helen Parkhouse

helen.parkhouse@audit.wales

Compliance with ethical standards

I confirm that my audit team has:

- complied with the ethical standards we are required to follow in carrying out our work;
- remained independent of yourselves;
- not compromised its objectivity; and
- has no relationships that could undermine its independence or objectivity.

Appendix 1 – Audit risks and outcomes

My Audit Plan set out the risks of material misstatement for the audit of Council's accounts. **Exhibit 2** lists these audit risks and sets out how they were addressed as part of the audit.

Exhibit 2: audit risks reported previously, work done and outcome

Audit risk	Work done	Outcome
<p>Risk of management override</p> <p>The risk of management override of controls is present in all entities. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, it is viewed as a significant risk.</p>	<p>My audit team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments made in preparing the financial statements;• reviewed accounting estimates for bias; and• evaluated the rationale for any significant transactions outside the normal course of business.	<p>My audit work has not identified any instances of management override of controls. I did not need to apply any additional procedures.</p>
<p>Related party disclosures</p> <p>The financial statements must disclose any related party relationships along with the transactions and balances between the Committee and the relevant parties. Where related party relationships</p>	<p>My audit team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reviewed the Committee's process for identifying related party relationships and the associated transactions and balances;• undertook procedures to confirm the completeness and accuracy of related party relationships, including our review and testing of Dols; and	<p>My audit team found that despite management accepting last year's audit recommendation, they did not properly account for related party disclosures. I comment further in Appendix 5.</p>

arise via individual senior officer and/or member relationships, there may be less transparency regarding the relationships. These transactions are of high interest and are considered to be material by their nature.

There is a risk of material misstatement due to incomplete or inaccurate disclosures, even where they are of relatively low value.

- ensured that disclosures are complete, accurate, consistent with evidence and are in accordance with the Local Government Code

Senior officer remuneration

The remuneration paid to senior officers continues to be of high interest and is material by nature. Therefore, even low value errors in the disclosures could result in material misstatement. There have been some changes to the senior management team during 2024-25. There is a risk that these are not appropriately disclosed in the financial statements.

My audit team:

- gained an understanding of the movements in the senior management team during 2024-25;
- ensured that remuneration disclosed is consistent with supporting evidence;
- ensured that amounts paid are consistent with those approved by the Committee;
- ensured that disclosures are complete and are prepared in accordance with requirements.

My audit work has not identified any material misstatement.

The Local Government Pension scheme (LGPS)

pension fund liability as reflected in the financial statements, is a material estimate.

The nature of this estimate means that it is subject to a high degree of estimation uncertainty as it is sensitive to small adjustments in the assumptions used in its calculation.

The impact of economic conditions, particularly interest rate levels, had an impact on the liability at 31 March 2025, with the year-end liability decreasing by £80 million from the position at 31 March 2024.

There are also several legal cases potentially impacting on the valuation of pension funds.

Therefore, there is a risk that the pension estimates are materially misstated.

My audit team:

- evaluated the instructions issued by management to their management experts (actuary) for this estimate and the scope of the actuary's work;
- assessed the competence, capabilities and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the valuations;
- assessed the accuracy and completeness of the information provided by the Committee to the actuary to estimate the liability;
- tested the accuracy of the pension fund net surplus/liability and disclosures in the financial statements with the actuarial report from the actuary;
- assessed the reasonableness of the assumptions made by the actuary by
- reviewed the report of the consulting actuary (auditor's expert); and
- assessed whether any legal cases could have a material impact on the fund.

My audit work has not identified any material misstatement.

Implementation of International Accounting Standard (IFRS) 16 – Leases

Local Government bodies are required to adopt IFRS16 Leases from 1

My audit team reviewed this area with officers, alongside our review of key documents, and established that the Committee has no material leases.

My audit work established that the Committee does not have any material leases.

April 2024. This significantly changes the accounting treatment and disclosures required for leased assets and means that most leases will result in an asset and liability on balance sheets. There is a risk that the requirements of the IFRS are not appropriately adopted and as a result the financial statements are materially misstated.

Provisions and contingent liabilities

The financial statements can include disclosures for provisions and/or contingent liabilities regarding legal obligations. Such disclosures can be inherent areas of estimate and are open to judgement and interpretation.

These weaknesses can affect key areas of the accounts, where we gain knowledge and assurance from legal records and discussions with, and assurances from, the Council's Monitoring Officer. Typically, these

My audit team:

- reviewed the Committee's meeting minutes and legal risk register to ensure all potential liabilities are considered;
- reviewed media outputs for reference to any potential litigation claims;
- liaised with the legal adviser as part of our evaluation of any litigation or potential litigation that the Committee is handling.

My audit work has not identified any material misstatement.

Issued: March 2026

elements of our audit
inform our audit of known
or potential contingent
liability costs and
estimated provisions.

Appendix 2 – Summary of corrections made

I identified the following misstatements that have been corrected by management, but which we consider should be drawn to your attention.

Exhibit 3: corrections made to the accounts

Value of correction	Accounts area	Explanation
£27,000	Note 16 Creditors The central government bodies' creditor decreased by £25,000 Public Corporations and Trading Funds creditor decreased by £2,000	To correct the figures disclosed.
£14,000	CIES, Balance Sheet and Note 13 Audit Fees Other expenses, creditors and Audit Wales Fees increased by £14,000	To account for additional fees from the 2023-24 audit.
Narrative	Note 26 Contingent Liability Update disclosure regarding Virgin Media Ruling and Pension Liability.	To reflect the current situation regarding the Department for Work and Pension's intention to legislate to mitigate any financial impact.
Narrative	Annual Governance Statement Improving the references to Internal Audit reports and the outcomes of previous year's stated action.	To more accurately reflect the 2024-25 internal audit findings and to adhere to CIPFA guidance.

Various	Minor amendments were made to the financial statements relating to revisions to disclosures, narrative changes, casting errors and typographical mistakes.	To ensure accuracy of the financial statements.
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Appendix 3 – Proposed audit report

The report of the Auditor General for Wales to the members of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2025, under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

The Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's financial statements comprise the Expenditure and Funding Analysis, Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee as at 31 March 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of Financial Statements of Public Sector Entities in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

My staff and I are independent of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the responsible financial officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report or the Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit;
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for:

- the preparation of the statement of accounts, which give a true and fair view and comply with proper practices;
- maintaining proper accounting records;

- internal controls as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- assessing Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible financial officer anticipates that the services provided by Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- Enquiring of management, Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's internal auditors, and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's policies and procedures concerned with:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and

- the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified the potential for fraud in respect of the posting of unusual journals.
- Obtaining an understanding of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee.
- Obtaining an understanding of related party relationships.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management, and the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee as those charged with governance, about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and
- evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of Shared Regulatory Services Joint

Committee's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
27 March 2026

1 Capital Quarter,
Tyndall Street,
Cardiff,
CF10 4BZ

Appendix 4 – Letter of representation

Letter of representation

[Required to be on the Committee's letterhead]

Auditor General for Wales
Wales Audit Office
1 Capital Quarter
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

25 March 2026

Representations regarding the 2024-25 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2025, for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and fairness and their proper preparation.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management representations

Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for:

- the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith; and
- the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information provided

We have provided you with:

- full access to;

- all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
- the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects the Committee and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements;
 - our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others;
 - our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements; and
 - the identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

The methods, the data and the significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, and their related disclosures are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. The effects of uncorrected misstatements identified during the audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Representations by the Committee

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by members on 25 March 2026.

We confirm that we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to you. We confirm that, as far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which you are unaware.

Signed by:

Signed by:

Section 151 Officer

Chair of the Shared Regulatory
Services Joint Committee

Date: 25 March 2026

Date: 25 March 2026

Appendix 5 – Recommendation

I set out one recommendation from this year’s audit, along with management’s response to it.

Related party disclosures

Finding

As detailed within our Audit Plan and this report, we consider the related party disclosures to be material by nature and at risk of material misstatement, particularly with regard to the completeness of the disclosures.

In the past two years we have reported that there was limited information and documentation regarding how the disclosure note had been compiled. Despite our past recommendations, which management had accepted, this year we again received very limited information and documentation.

Further to the above, this year we also found that:

- while officers’ declarations of interest (DOIs) had been received, finance officers had not evidenced their assessment of them; and
- officers had not requested and obtained members’ DOIs and therefore could not assess them.

The lack of due process and evidence resulted in extended work being required by us in order to gain the required level of audit assurance.

Recommendation

The Committee should ensure that:

- signed declarations of interests are received annually, prior to the production of the draft accounts¹, from senior management and all members;
- finance officers thoroughly evaluate the DOIs and ensure compliance of the accounts with the CIPFA Local Government Accounting Code; and
- finance officers document all their work and judgements on the DOIs and relevant financial ledger transactions and balances, providing a documented audit trail for the disclosures in the accounts presented for audit.

Accepted in full by management

Yes

Management response

The finance team will circulate the declaration of interest requests in March 2026 and will keep a record of the finance check and any related ledger reports required to support the 2025/26 accounts.

Implementation date

30 June 2026

¹ Or when a member or officer leaves the joint committee during the financial year.

Issued: March 2026

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Our commitment to audit quality in Audit Wales is absolute. We believe that audit quality is about getting things right first time.

We use a three lines of assurance model to demonstrate how we achieve this. We have established an Audit Quality Committee to co-ordinate and oversee those arrangements. We subject our work to independent scrutiny by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and our Chair of the Board, acts as a link to our Board on audit quality. For more information see our [Audit Quality Report 2024](#).



Our People

- Selection of right team
- Use of specialists
- Supervisions and review



Arrangements for achieving audit quality

Selection of right team

- Audit platform
- Ethics
- Guidance
- Culture
- Learning and development
- Leadership
- Technical support



Independent assurance

- EQRs
- Themed reviews
- Cold reviews
- Root cause analysis
- Peer review
- Audit Quality Committee
- External monitoring

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We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

