

# North Lanarkshire Council Report

## Audit and Scrutiny Panel

approval  noting

**Ref** EK/VR

**Date** 30/06/21

## Annual Accounts Update

**From** Elaine Kemp, Head of Financial Solutions

**Email** kempe@northlan.gov.uk

**Telephone** 07939 280 601

---

### Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the statutory Annual Accounts for financial year 2020/21 which will be presented to the Panel on 2 September 2021 following the submission to External Audit by the deadline of 30 June 2021.

---

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Audit and Scrutiny Panel:

- (1) notes the contents of the report
- (2) notes the draft accounts will be presented to the Panel at the next planned meeting

---

### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

**Priority** All priorities

**Ambition statement** (25) Ensure intelligent use of data and information to support fully evidence based decision making and future planning

## **1. Background**

1.1. The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 state that:

- The Annual Accounts must be submitted to the auditor no later than 30th June immediately following the financial year to which the Annual Accounts relate.
- The local authority must publish a copy of the Annual Accounts submitted to the auditor, clearly identified as an unaudited version, on a website of the authority from the date they are submitted until the date on which the audited Annual Accounts are published
- A local authority or a committee of that authority whose remit includes audit or governance functions must meet to consider the unaudited Annual Accounts as submitted to the auditor.
- The meeting referred to must be held no later than 31st August immediately following the financial year to which the Annual Accounts relate.

---

## **2. Report**

2.1. There have been significant additional challenges and uncertainty during financial year 2020/21 as a result of the Council's initial response and latterly recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently these challenges and complex issues have been mirrored in the preparations and completion of the financial statements for the year.

2.2. It is essential that officers maximise the time allowed to prepare the financial statements to ensure the draft submitted to External Audit on 30 June truly reflects the financial position of the Council in an accurate, true and fair way.

2.3. In order to allow proper officer checks and appropriate consideration of the complexities surrounding the COVID funding and subsequent accounting treatment of these funds, the Unaudited Annual Accounts will be brought to the next available meeting of the Audit and Scrutiny Panel on 2 September 2021.

2.4. This decision continues the practice adopted for the 2019/20 Unaudited Annual Accounts and has been agreed with External Audit to allow members additional opportunity to review and consider the draft accounts whilst still meeting the Council's statutory obligations.

2.5. In line with last year's practice, Panel members will be issued with a copy of the Unaudited Annual Accounts following their submission to External Audit on 30 June 2021.

---

## **3. Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty**

3.1 **Public Sector Equality Duty**  
No impact.

3.2 **Fairer Scotland Duty**  
No impact.

---

## **4. Impact**

4.1 **Financial impact**  
No impact

4.2 **HR Policy / Legislative impact**

No impact

4.3 **Technology / Digital impact**  
No impact

4.4 **Environmental impact**  
No impact

4.5 **Communications impact**  
No impact

4.6 **Risk impact**  
No impact

---

**5. Measures of success**

5.1 Compliance with statutory obligations.

---

**6. Supporting documents**

6.1 N/a



**Elaine Kemp**  
**Head of Financial Solutions**