

Report

Report to:	Risk and Audit Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 November 2021
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Audited Annual Accounts 2020/2021
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:

- ◆ advise members of the requirement to approve the Annual Accounts 2020/2021 for signature, both Council and related Charitable Trusts

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):

- (1) that the South Lanarkshire Council Accounts 2020/2021 and the Charitable Accounts have received a clean audit certificate, be noted;
- (2) that the audited South Lanarkshire Council Accounts 2020/2021 and the Charitable Trusts' Accounts be approved for signature;
- (3) that it be noted that the External Auditor's Report will be referred to South Lanarkshire Council for information; and
- (4) that it be noted that the Audited Accounts 2020/2021 will be available on the Council's website.

3. Background

- 3.1. Following the publication of The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, the members of the Committee have to meet to consider whether to approve the Audited Annual Accounts for signature, no later than the 30 September 2021. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government introduced legislation which allowed this deadline to be extended to 30 November.
- 3.2. The members are also required to have regard to any report made or advice provided on the Annual Accounts by the External Auditor.
- 3.3. The External Auditor's Report was included as an earlier report to this meeting and will be referred to the meeting of South Lanarkshire Council (1 December 2021) for information.
- 3.4. Copies of the (unsigned) Audited Accounts 2020/2021, for both the Council and Related Charities, have been emailed to members of this Committee under separate cover. Copies of the Council's Audited Accounts, the Charitable Trusts' Audited Accounts and the External Auditor's Report, will be issued to all Elected Members for their information.

- 3.5. Once signed, the Audited Accounts will be available to the general public on the Council's website and due to COVID-19 restrictions, we can arrange to send a copy out to anyone who requests them rather than them being available on the 4th Floor, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton.

4. Audited Accounts – South Lanarkshire Council

- 4.1. As noted in section 3.1, members of the Committee are required to approve the Audited Accounts for signature. A copy of the Audited Accounts for 2020/2021 have been emailed to Members of this Committee under separate cover.
- 4.2. As detailed in a previous report, the Council's External Auditors, Audit Scotland, have completed an audit which extends across the 2020/2021 Accounts and related matters.
- 4.3. The report notes that the External Auditor has provided a clear Audit Certificate with no qualifications on the Council's Accounts.
- 4.4. The External Auditor's Report also includes an agreed action plan at Appendix 1. Officers of the Council will work to ensure that these actions are implemented during 2021/2022.

5. Audited Accounts – Charitable Trusts

- 5.1. Members of the Committee are required to approve the Charitable Trusts' Audited Accounts for signature. A copy of the Audited Accounts for 2020/2021 have been emailed to Members of this Committee under separate cover.
- 5.2. The External Auditor also reports on the 3 Charitable Trusts managed by the Council: South Lanarkshire Council Educational Trust, South Lanarkshire Council Charitable Trust and the East Kilbride Information Technology Trust.
- 5.3. The External Auditor's report shows a clear audit certificate for each Trust.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. There are no direct employee implications from this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Annual Accounts received a clear audit certificate. The main changes to the Council's Accounts 2020/2021 are detailed in the External Auditor's report. All changes identified in the External Auditor's report have been made and the impact on the Council's outturn reflected in the Audited Accounts. The changes were in respect of COVID-19 and the Loans Fund Review and the resultant underspend has been transferred to the Earmarked General Fund Reserve for future spend on these areas. There is therefore no impact in relation to the Council's uncommitted reserves.

8. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 8.1. There are no implications for climate change, sustainability or the environment in terms of the information contained in this report.

9. Other Implications

- 9.2. The main risk associated with the Council and Charitable Annual Accounts is a qualified audit report. The risk has been assessed as low due to the detailed preparation in relation to the year end process, technical training undertaken by key

finance staff and the roll out of this to Resource finance staff as appropriate. Finance and Resources work together to achieve key deadlines and actions set from timetables.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

10.2. There is also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained in this report.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

3 November 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council Annual Accounts 2020/2021 and External Auditor's Report.
- ◆ Charitable Trusts' Annual Accounts 2020/2021 and External Auditor's Report.
- ◆ Financial Ledger 2020/2021 and associated working papers.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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