

## REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

### UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21 FOR ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL AND ITS CHARITABLE TRUSTS

#### **1 Reason for Report / Summary**

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with the Unaudited accounts for 2020/21 for Aberdeenshire Council and its Charitable Trusts.

#### **2 Recommendations**

**Audit Committee is recommended to:**

- 2.1 Consider the unaudited Annual Accounts 2020/21 for Aberdeenshire Council and its Charitable Trusts.**

#### **3 Purpose and Decision Making Route**

- 3.1 Aberdeenshire Council has a statutory responsibility to prepare its Annual Accounts by 30 June, following the 31 March financial year end.

#### **4 Discussion**

- 4.1 Aberdeenshire Council has a statutory responsibility to prepare its Annual Accounts by 30 June, following the 31 March financial year end, however flexibility is provided within the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 (extended to 30 September 2021) to extend this to a date that is as soon as is reasonably practical.
- 4.2 Finance, with the support of the Senior Leadership Team, determined that it was prudent and appropriate to work to the revised timescales available for the completion and publication of the Annual Accounts.
- 4.3 The Annual Accounts have now been prepared and passed to the Council's auditors, Audit Scotland. A notification has been placed on the ward pages advising all Councillors that the Annual Accounts are available to view on the Council's website:

[Publications - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

- 4.4 The Annual Governance Statement contained within the Annual Accounts was approved by this Committee on 1 July 2021.
- 4.5 Audit Scotland will undertake the audit of the accounts over the next few months. Audit Scotland need to be satisfied that in their opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the Council's financial affairs, are free from material misstatement and have been prepared in accordance with relevant accounting standards and legislation.

- 4.6 The audited accounts will then be reported to this Committee on 16 December 2021 for approval. Prior to this, all Councillors have been invited to attend a workshop on the 8 October 2021. The purpose of this session is to provide Elected Members with an understanding of the information contained within the Annual Accounts, and how the document links to the financial performance information reported to Policy Committees on a quarterly basis. It also allows for an opportunity to refresh the understanding of the role of the Audit Committee in the financial stewardship of the Council's finances.
- 4.7 The Audited Accounts for 2020/21 will be reported to Full Council on 13 January 2022.
- 4.8 In terms of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, the Council or a Committee with audit responsibilities must meet to consider the unaudited Annual Accounts as submitted no later than 31 August. Again flexibility to extend this date to is provided within the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020. Therefore, the Committee is now asked to consider the unaudited Annual Accounts 2020/21 for Aberdeenshire Council and its Charitable Trusts.

### Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 The work and outcomes delivered through the various services reporting to the Audit Committee helps in the delivery of the following council priorities:

| Pillar          | Priority                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Our People      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> </ul>              |
| Our Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure</li> <li>• Resilient Communities</li> </ul>          |
| Our Economy     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economy &amp; Enterprise</li> <li>• Estate Modernisation</li> </ul> |

- 5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation is agreed.

| Subject                                          | Yes | No | N/A |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|----|-----|
| Financial                                        | X   |    |     |
| Staffing                                         |     | X  |     |
| Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland              |     |    | X   |
| Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing |     |    | X   |
| Climate Change and Sustainability                |     |    | X   |
| Health and Wellbeing                             |     |    | X   |
| Town Centre First                                |     |    | X   |

- 5.3 There are no direct financial or staffing implications arising from this report.
- 5.4 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required as the actions do not have a differential impact on people with protected characteristics.
- 5.5 The following Risk has been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level: Budget Pressures [Corporate Risk Register](#). The following Risk has been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level: Balancing the Books [Directorate Risk Registers](#). Actions being taken to mitigate these risks are set out in the report.

## **6. Scheme of Governance**

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section G.1.3 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to a review of the financial statements, management letters or reports and compliance with relevant codes of practice.

### **Ritchie Johnson Director of Business Services**

Report prepared by Mary Beattie, Interim Head of Finance

Date 10 August 2021