

SUBJECT:	AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2025/26 - MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
MEETING:	Governance & Audit Committee
DATE:	29th September 2026
DIVISIONS/WARD AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Governance & Audit Committee with the audited 2025/26 Statement of Accounts for Monmouthshire County Council for final scrutiny and approval, alongside the Audit Wales Audit of Accounts Report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1. That the Committee note the Audit Wales Audit of Accounts Report and the unqualified audit opinion issued on the 2025/26 Statement of Accounts.
- 2.2. That the Governance and Audit Committee approve the final audited Monmouthshire County Council Statement of Accounts for 2025/26 as shown at **Appendix 1**.

3. KEY ISSUES

The Accounts closure process

- 3.1. The draft Statement of Accounts for 2025/26 was completed and signed by the Responsible Finance Officer on 30th June 2026. The accounts were published on the Council's website and considered by this Committee on 24th July 2026.
- 3.2. The draft accounts were completed in line with the timetable communicated to Audit Wales at the start of the closure process, enabling the timely commencement of the external audit and supporting the planned timetable for completion of the audited accounts.
- 3.3. A public inspection period was held following publication of the draft accounts. No matters have been brought to the attention of the Committee requiring amendment to the accounts as a result of the public inspection process.
- 3.4. The external audit process commenced following publication of the draft accounts and has now concluded, with certification of the accounts scheduled for 30th September 2026.

Audit conclusion

- 3.5. Audit Wales has issued an ***unqualified audit opinion*** on the 2025/26 Statement of Accounts. This represents a positive audit outcome for the Council and provides appropriate assurance to the Committee that the accounts give a true and fair view and have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant accounting framework.
- 3.6. Audit Wales has reported that there are no uncorrected misstatements and no other significant matters to bring to the Committee's attention. This reflects positively on the overall quality of the accounts and the support provided by officers throughout the audit process. Any recommendations arising from the audit will be reported separately through an Accounts Memorandum, which will be communicated to the Council in due course.
- 3.7. Appendix 2 of the Audit Wales Audit of Accounts Report contains a summary of misstatements identified during the course of the audit that have been corrected by management within the final audited Statement of Accounts. Whilst some of the corrections are material, Audit Wales has confirmed that none have an impact on the Council's closing reserve balances.
- 3.8. The main corrected misstatements drawn to the Committee's attention relate to pensions disclosures, property valuations, accumulated absences, investment properties, cashflow and debtor classifications, agency disclosures, related party transactions and remuneration disclosures. These changes have been made to improve the accuracy, completeness and presentation of the financial statements and supporting notes.
- 3.9. The most significant correction relates to the pensions disclosure note, where the draft accounts excluded the impact of asset ceiling on net interest. Other material or notable amendments largely relate to balance sheet classifications and valuation disclosures. The amendments strengthen the quality of the final accounts but do not alter the underlying reported outturn position or the Council's closing reserve balances.
- 3.10. Audit Wales has also commented that the overall audit process was well supported by officers. The audit identified difficulties and delays in relation to evidence for asset revaluations, and management will strengthen arrangements with relevant services to support the timely provision of valuation evidence and responses in future audit years.

4. REASONS

- 4.1. To approve the Council's final audited Statement of Accounts for 2025/26, which incorporates all corrected misstatements identified by Audit Wales and reported within its Audit of Accounts Report.

5. CONSULTEES

Section 151 Officer
Cabinet Member for Resources
Audit Wales

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1: Audited Statement of Accounts 2025/26

7. AUTHORS:

Jonathan Davies

Head of Finance

Email: jonathandavies2@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Phone: (01633) 644114