



REPORT TO: GRAMPIAN VALUATION JOINT BOARD ON 27 JANUARY 2023

SUBJECT: AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

BY: TREASURER TO THE BOARD

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To submit the audited Annual Accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2022 to the Board for consideration and approval.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Board:

(a) approves that the Annual Accounts are signed, having regard to the Annual Report from the External Auditor considered earlier at this meeting;

(b) notes the variance of £728,000 for 2021/22; and

(c) if the Annual Accounts are approved for signing, agrees that £479,000 is returned to constituent authorities leaving a balance on the General Fund of £219,000, and an earmarked reserve for Non Domestic Rates Reform of £408,000.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Joint Boards are required to account for their activities to the communities that they serve and to have the financial effect of those activities audited by External Auditors.

3.2 In accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, it is a statutory requirement that the Board meets to consider and approve for signature the audited Annual Accounts and, following the signing of the Annual

Accounts, provides appropriately signed statements to the External Auditor, Audit Scotland.

- 3.3 A copy of the audited Annual Accounts for 2021/22 are appended to this report as **APPENDIX 1**. Amendments totalling £24,000 have been made to the unaudited accounts that were reported to the Board on 26 August 2022, which has altered the surplus and, therefore, amount to be returned to the constituent authorities.
- 3.4 The Auditor's draft Report to the Board and the Controller of Audit is the subject of a separate report to this meeting. The report confirms that there are no unadjusted misstatements in the accounts to report to those charged with governance. The Independent Auditor's report gives an unqualified opinion, which means that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Board's financial position for 2021/22.
- 3.5 With a total underspend of £0.819m, there was no requirement to utilise the budgeted £0.091m from reserves thus giving an overall variance of £0.728m. Of this total, £0.265m was transferred to the NDR Reserve for future commitments, while £0.016m was transferred out of the General Fund Reserve to bring the balance back to the maximum permitted under the Board's Reserves Policy. The remaining balance of £0.479m is available to return to the constituent authorities.
- 3.6 The surplus to be returned to the constituent authorities is in proportion to the percentage of requisitions for 2021/22 and is as follows:

2021/22 Proposed Surplus Refund to Authorities		
	%	£
Aberdeen City Council	39.04	187,001
Aberdeenshire Council	44.60	213,634
Moray Council	16.36	78,365
Total	100.00	479,000

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Board generated a surplus of £819,000 in 2021/22. If the Annual Accounts are approved, £479,000 will be returned to constituent authorities leaving a balance on the General Fund of £219,000 and the earmarked NDR Reform Reserve of £408,000.

Author of Report: Susan Souter, Senior Accountant
Background papers: Held within Accountancy Section, Moray Council
Date: 16 January 2023