

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 27 August 2024

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

SUBJECT: Draft Annual Accounts 2023-24

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on the draft unaudited accounts for the Council and Group entities for the year ending 31 March 2024. In accordance with regulations, the unaudited accounts must be formally scrutinised by Members by 31 August 2024.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
- Note that the draft annual accounts for the Council and its wider group, and the Dr Bruce Trust, have been submitted to External Audit prior to the statutory deadline of 30 June 2024.
 - Note that the accounts remain in draft pending the finalisation of the statutory audit which is expected to complete by November 2024.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report on the 2023-24 financial year end position, and draft accounts was considered by Council at its meeting on [25 June 2024](#) (Item 02). The report highlighted that the draft accounts would be submitted for audit in line with the statutory deadline of 30 June 2024, with formal Council consideration of the unaudited accounts to be undertaken after this.
- 3.2 In accordance with the requirements of the 2014 regulations, the unaudited accounts must be formally scrutinised by Members by 31 August 2024. To support this, a number of key elements have been undertaken:
- An Elected Member's Briefing pack has been issued to support and assist Members in this statutory duty by highlighting key information relating to the 2023-24 unaudited accounts and explaining relevant aspects of the Local Government financial framework.

- All Elected Members have access to the draft accounts which have been published in the Members' Library Service ([MLS 74/24 East Lothian Council \(Unaudited\) Accounts 2023/24](#)) and the opportunity to raise any significant questions or lines of enquiry to provide further clarity and understanding.
- In accordance with statutory requirements, the draft accounts were made available for public inspection for a 3-week period concluding 19 July 2024. No objections were received during this period.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct policy implications associated with this report.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been considered and given there is no change in policy direction, there is no requirement to undertake any further impact assessment.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – no direct financial implications arise from the submission for audit of the accounts. Audit fees are paid for the audit process.
- 6.2 Personnel – no direct personnel financial implications arise from the submission for audit of the accounts. The audit and public inspection process involve East Lothian Council staff support.
- 6.3 Other – None.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Members Library Service – June 2024 – 74/24 East Lothian Council Draft Unaudited) Annual Accounts 2023/24
[Agendas, reports and minutes | East Lothian Council](#)
- 7.2 Report to Council, 25 June 2024: Item 2 – Finance Review 2023/24
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