

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	AGC/25/1
MEETING	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	20 JANUARY 2025
SUBJECT OF REPORT	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023-24
LEAD OFFICER	Treasurer
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That the final Statement of Accounts for 2023-24 be approved for publication.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>This report provides the Committee with an audited version of the Statement of Accounts for 2023-24 with an opportunity to review the content prior to publication per the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.</p> <p>The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has put in place revised regulations that extend the statutory audit deadlines for 2023-24. The publication date for audited bodies was 31 May 2024 for 2023-24. Whilst the Service published the draft accounts within the deadline, the backstop date for the audit to complete is 28 February 2025 for the financial year 2023-24.</p> <p>The audited accounts are attached to this report at Appendix A and incorporate amendments to the draft Statement of Accounts as agreed with the auditors. The Audit Findings Report associated with the Statement of Accounts for 2023-24 is also included within the agenda for this meeting for consideration.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	As indicated in the report.
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	An initial assessment has not identified any equality issues emanating from this report.
APPENDICES	A. Statement of Accounts 2023-24
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended 2024)

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (“The Regulations”), which apply to the Authority, introduced a new timetable for preparation, audit and publication of both the draft and final Financial Statements. The Financial Statements comprise the Statement of Accounts, including the Narrative Statement, and the Annual Statement of Assurance. Whilst the Regulations came into force in 2015 the revisions to the timescales for publication applied from the 2021-22 financial year onwards and therefore, to the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024.
- 1.2 The Regulations require the final financial statements to be signed off by the Authority and this is delegated to the Audit & Governance Committee. The 2015 Regulations also introduced a requirement that the draft Financial Statements be available for inspection on the Authority website and this practice commenced for the 2015-16 financial year.
- 1.3 The final audit is now complete, the Audit Findings Report is included within the agenda for consideration.
- 1.4 The draft financial statements were made available to the auditors on 31st May 2024. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those involved in preparing the Financial Statements for their hard work and commitment to continuously improving processes whilst meeting this timescale for publication and audit of the accounts.

ANDREW FURBEAR
Head of Finance (Treasurer)