Mae'r ddogfen yma ar gael yn Gymraeg **Agenda Item 16**

Report to	**North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority**
Date	**20 July 2026**
Lead Officer	**Elgan Roberts, Head of Finance and Procurement**
Contact Officer	**Elgan Roberts, Head of Finance and Procurement**
Subject	**Annual Statement of Accounts 2025/26**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1 To present to Members the updated Statement of Accounts for 2025/26. This report also presents the findings of the Auditor General for Wales which confirms an unqualified audit opinion, subject to completion of the outstanding audit work.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2 The draft accounts were submitted for audit on 28th May 2026. The audited financial position remains the same, with presentational adjustment and one uncorrected misstatement.

3 The report issued by Audit Wales on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales is set out in Appendix 2 and, subject to the completion of the outstanding audit work referenced in the introductory section of the ISA 260 report, is expected to confirm an unqualified audit opinion.

4 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 require that the audited accounts are approved by Members by 31 July 2026. However, since the pandemic, these timescales have been extended by the Welsh Government to 30 September 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5 It is recommended that Members:

i) Note the audited outturn position and performance as detailed within the 2025/26 Statement of Accounts (Appendix 1);
ii) Note the report of the Auditor General for Wales which confirms an unqualified audit opinion (Appendix 2); and
iii) Confirm the recommendation of approval of the final audited 2025/26 Statement of Accounts, subject to no material changes.
iv) If material changes are required approve delegation to Audit Committee and exec panel in September.

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER COMMITTEES

6 The unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2025/26 were presented to the Audit Committee and Executive Panel on the 15 June 2026.

BACKGROUND

7 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require the Authority to prepare and publish a statement of accounts on an annual basis. The pre-Covid timescales prescribed within the Regulations require a draft statement of accounts to be issued by 31 May, with an audit deadline of 31 July each year.

8 The Welsh Government, following consultation with the Society of Welsh Treasurers and Audit Wales, confirmed that the draft statement of accounts for 2025/26 should be prepared no later than 30 June 2026, and that the statement of accounts should be audited by the 30 September 2026.

9 The draft Statement of Accounts were certified by the Authority's Treasurer on 28 May 2026 and presented to Audit Wales. The draft statement of accounts have been subject to external audit and appendix 1 contain the final audited version subject to no significant changes.

INFORMATION

AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

8 The Auditor General for Wales is responsible for providing an opinion on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the Authority for the year ended 31 March 2026.

9 In performing the audit work, Audit Wales does not seek to provide absolute assurance but considers whether there are any material issues which may result in a reader of the accounts being misled. When an error or misstatement is identified Audit Wales will consider whether an amendment is required.

10 The Auditor General for Wales intends to issue an unqualified audit opinion, confirming that the financial statements present a true and fair view of the Authority’s financial position and have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant legislative and accounting standards, subject to the completion of the outstanding audit work referenced in the introductory section of the ISA 260 report. The full audit report is included at Appendix 2, and the following matters are highlighted.

11 During the audit of the 2025/26 Statement of Accounts, Audit Wales identified a small number of amendments which were agreed with management and incorporated into the final Statement of Accounts. Details of these amendments are set out in the accompanying Audit Wales ISA 260 report.

12 One uncorrected misstatement was identified during the audit, relating to prepayment of invoices totalling £90k that should have been charged to 2025/26, although the expenditure will be incurred in 2026/27.

13 Matters raised by the audit team were addressed and resolved in collaboration with officers, resulting in a set of financial statements that fully comply with the applicable accounting standards.

IMPLICATIONS

Wellbeing Objectives	This report links to the Authority's long-term well-being objectives. Funding for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service (the Service) benefits the communities of North Wales and ensures there is sufficient investment in infrastructure to enable the service to provide emergency responses and prevention work well in to the future.
Budget	Budget is set annually in accordance with the proposed service delivery which includes emergency response and prevention work.
Legal	It is a legal requirement that the Authority produces the Statement of Accounts in accordance with the prescribed standards.
Staffing	Effective financial management supports the long-term workforce strategy to ensure that the Authority can discharge its responsibilities
Equalities/ Human Rights/Welsh Language	None
Risks and Uncertainties	Income and expenditure are closely monitored to ensure that deviations from the approved budget are properly identified and reported to Members.