

**EXTRACT OF MINUTE OF AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 17
DECEMBER 2024**

* **12. AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

(a) Annual Audit Report - Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Committee gave consideration to a report and a short verbal update outlining the unqualified opinion of the External Auditors, Forvis Mazars, on the audit of the financial statements.

Decision

The Audit and Scrutiny Committee agreed to note the findings of the report.

(Reference: Report by Forvis Mazars, dated December 2024, submitted)

(b) 2023-24 Argyll and Bute Council - ISA 580 Letter of Representation

Consideration was given to the ISA 580 letter of representation on the audit of the annual accounts of Argyll and Bute Council for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Decision

The Audit and Scrutiny Committee:-

1. noted the contents of the ISA 580 letter of representation; and
2. agreed to recommend to Council that the ISA 580 letter of representation be approved for signing.

(Reference: ISA 580 Letter of Representation by Section 95 Officer, dated December 2024, submitted)

(c) Audited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Committee gave consideration to a report presenting the Audited Annual Accounts of the Council for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The Interim Head of Financial Services advised of a presentational change which would be required to the accounts in respect of Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 31 March 2024, to be reflected within Current Liabilities in the Balance Sheets and the Management Commentary.

Decision

The Audit and Scrutiny Committee:-

1. noted that the audit is substantially complete and that Forvis Mazars have advised the Council that they are expecting to issue an unqualified opinion on the Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024;
2. agreed to accept and endorse the Annual Accounts, and refer to the Council for approval, subject to a presentational change in respect of Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 31 March 2024, to be reflected within Current Liabilities in the Balance Sheets and the Management Commentary;
3. noted that if the Council receive a follow-up letter from Forvis Mazars confirming that there are no material changes to the Accounts, there would be no impediment to the Council signing off the Annual Accounts; and
4. noted that if the Council receive a follow-up letter from Forvis Mazars confirming there was a material change, it would be a matter for the Council to take forward the approval of the Accounts having regard to that. It was further noted that in this event, a further report would be submitted to the Audit and Scrutiny Committee for their information.

(Reference: Report by Section 95 Officer, dated December 2024, submitted)