

The background of the slide features the Falkirk Council Coat of Arms. It is a shield divided into four quarters. The top-left quarter shows a saltire (X-shaped cross) on a blue field. The top-right quarter shows a stag's head facing left on a red field. The bottom-left quarter shows a three-masted sailing ship on a blue field. The bottom-right quarter shows a crowned eagle with wings spread on a red field. Above the shield is a crown with four fleurs-de-lis. A ribbon scrolls across the bottom of the shield with the motto 'A'NE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 5

**Falkirk Council Annual Accounts
2018/19 and Falkirk Temperance Trust
Accounts 2018/19**

Falkirk Council

Subject: Falkirk Council Annual Accounts 2018/19 and Falkirk Temperance Trust Accounts 2018/19
Meeting: Audit Committee
Date: 17 June 2019
Submitted By: Director of Corporate & Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations (The Regulations) 2014 requires the Council to submit the Unaudited Annual Accounts of the Council and Falkirk Temperance Trust (the Unaudited Accounts) for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 to the Auditor by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2019. Under the Regulations, a Committee of the local authority, whose remit includes audit and governance functions, must meet to consider the Unaudited Annual Accounts.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **The Audit Committee is invited to consider the Unaudited Annual Accounts, note the public inspection period and that the Unaudited Annual Accounts will be submitted to the Council's External Auditor by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2019.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In order to meet the requirements of the Regulations, the Council has delegated responsibility to the Audit Committee to consider the Unaudited Annual Accounts.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 Officers have been working on preparing the Unaudited Accounts for the past few months and the closure of accounts process is proceeding in accordance with the project plan to allow them to be lodged with the Auditor by the due date of 30 June 2019. The Unaudited Accounts will be posted on the Council's website on 17 June.
- 4.2 In considering the Unaudited Accounts, the Committee's attention is drawn to the Management Commentary which provides a summary of key matters and the Annual Governance Statement which details the key elements of the Council's governance framework.

- 4.3 The Regulations also require that local authorities give public notice of the rights of individuals to inspect the Unaudited Accounts within a specified period. Individuals may lodge an objection to the Unaudited Accounts, or to any part of the Accounts. The timetable is set out below and demonstrates how the Council will comply with the Regulations. The statutory three week public inspection period will commence on 27 June following the public notice on 13 June.

Stage	Latest Date	Falkirk's Date	Comments
Publication of notice	17 June	13 June	The Regulations set the latest date as 17 June.
Inspection start date	1 July	27 June	The Regulations set the latest date as 1 July.
Inspection end date	19 July	17 July	The inspection period requires to be 15 working days from (and including) the inspection start
Objection deadline	22 July	18 July	An objection must be lodged not later than the end of the working day after the

- 4.4 The formal audit process will commence at the beginning of July and is due to be completed by the end of September. Copies of the draft accounts are available from the Chief Finance Officer from 17 June.
- 4.5 In due course the Audited Accounts require to be submitted by 30 September, following consideration and approval by the Council. The Audit Committee will meet on 16 September to review the audited annual accounts and recommend approval to the Council.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The accounts will be subject to public inspection.

6. Implications

- 6.1 The accounts will be subject to public inspection.

Financial

- 6.2 There are no financial implications arising from the report recommendation.

Resources

- 6.3 There are no resource implications arising from the report recommendation.

Legal

- 6.4 There are no legal implications arising from the report recommendation, aside from the requirement to meet the statutory dates.

Risk

- 6.5 There are no risks arising from the report recommendation.

Equalities

- 6.6 There are no equalities implications arising from the report recommendation.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.7 There are no sustainability/environmental implications arising from the report recommendation.

Director of Corporate and Housing Services

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Appendices

Falkirk Council Annual Accounts 2018/19
Falkirk Temperance Trust Accounts 2018/19

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- **2018/19 working papers for the Unaudited Annual Report and Accounts for Falkirk Council and Falkirk Temperance Trust.**