
WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended 31 March 2019

WEST OF SCOTLAND ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 March 2019

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❖ Management Commentary

- ❖ The West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) was set up in 1997 as a Joint Committee of 12 Local Authorities in the region. However, North Lanarkshire Council left the Joint Committee on 31 March 2009, as did Inverclyde Council on 31 March 2013, in both cases after service of the requisite two year notice period. East Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire Councils, having previously submitted two years' notice of withdrawal from the service which would have come into effect on 1st April 2018, rescinded their notice following progress on revisions to the service delivery model, and remain members.
- ❖ The primary purpose of the Archaeology Service is to provide planning related archaeological advice to its member councils to allow them to discharge their duties in respect of Scottish Government planning guidance for the treatment of archaeological remains in the planning process.
- ❖ Since 2003, an archaeological advice service has also been provided to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (originally in conjunction with Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and with the Stirling Council archaeologist, but as sole service provider since 1 July 2012), and since 2004 to West Lothian Council. Since 2018, archaeological advice has also been provided to East Dunbartonshire Council, which is currently negotiating full entry to the service.
- ❖ At various stages the service has also provided advice to the Forestry Commission and to the Scottish Rural Development Programme and has done specific archaeological advice contract work for a number of other public sector clients. It has also received grant aid from Historic Scotland for specific projects.
- ❖ The service covers a large geographically diverse region stretching from the Southern Uplands to Argyll and its islands. This varied territory includes the Clydeside conurbation and the City of Glasgow with its strong industrial archaeological heritage, many important towns with medieval cores, and a large rural area containing many significant archaeological sites. The service plays a key role in identifying for its member councils and other clients archaeological issues arising from development within this diverse area. For this purpose, the service curates a detailed Historic Environment Record which contains the most up to date archaeological knowledge.
- ❖ The Historic Environment Record is the key tool for the Service in its own work while selected data from the Record is made available online to the public through both a Geographical Information System based interface and a searchable database. Spatial information from the Historic Environment Record is provided to the Local Government Improvement Service on behalf of each member council so that they continue to comply with the statutory requirement of the European Union's INSPIRE Directive. The service also responds to direct enquiries from the public.

- ❖ Not all archaeological sites are currently known – some areas of Scotland have still to be systematically surveyed. Many sites remain to be discovered below ground level, for example in the rich agricultural lands in Ayrshire where all surface traces have been ploughed flat over the centuries. Over the past twenty years the service has identified and handled around 20,000 planning applications and as a result a number of significant archaeological sites have been discovered and have been excavated with developer funding, as advised in the Scottish Government policy.
- ❖ During the report period, the service dealt with 1918 new casework items, an increase of 8.1% on the previous year. The new casework items comprised consultation on 930 planning applications, monitoring 593 Weekly Lists of Planning Applications, and 395 other casework items. Achievements against the agreed Performance Indicators for each of these categories of work for the reporting period to 31ST March 2019 are set out below.

Casework type	Performance Indicator (As set out in WOSAS Service Level Agreement)	Performance Standard	Performance 2018-19
Planning Application Consultations	Applications to be actioned within 21 calendar days of receipt.	80%	96.2%
Monitoring Weekly Lists	Lists to be monitored and actioned within 14 calendar days of receipt.	90%	99.5%
Other Work Areas	Casework to be actioned within 21 calendar days of receipt.	80%	82%

Within the five categories of casework aggregated into “Other Work Areas”, only responses to un-resourced external consultations on government-funded forestry operations have fallen below the WoSAS ‘80% within 21-days’ standard, which exceeds the 28-day response period allowed by the Forestry and Land Scotland consultee

- ❖ All archaeological fieldwork arising from the planning process is undertaken by private sector commercial archaeologists on behalf of developers. The service undertakes no fieldwork itself but oversees the implementation of archaeological conditions attached to planning consent for development. The service has continually refined and updated how it deals with the historic environment in the planning system, receiving Commendations for the Development Management category in the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning on two occasions, most recently in 2014.
- ❖ The completion of the updated service delivery review in the coming year will respond flexibly to take account of the finalised provisions of the new Planning Act, which is expected to become law by the end of 2019. The service will have to accommodate any changes in the way in which development is to be planned, planning applications are to be processed, communities are to be consulted, and the planning system is to be resourced.

- ❖ The substantial growth in the number of private sector commercial archaeological organisations in Scotland after 1990 created a significant number of archaeological jobs, and although the economic recession in 2008-9 and the subsequent downturn in construction projects impacted on jobs in this field, there have been signs of stability in jobs in the sector over the last decade as a whole.

- ❖ In the coming period, throughout any transition which may result from imminent changes to the planning system, the service will continue to monitor, identify, and handle archaeological issues arising through the planning process on behalf of its member councils and clients and will continue to give advice to the public and make its Historic Environment Record information available to them through the service website at www.wosas.net.

Financial Results

The balance of usable reserves at the 1 April 2018 was £105,318. In 2018/19 total expenditure was £154,722 and total income was £172,712 resulting in a surplus for the year of £17,990. The balance of usable reserves at 31 March 2019 was £123,308.

Rhiannon Spear
Convener, WoSAS
19th September 2019

Martin Booth BA CPFA MBA
Executive Director of Finance
19th September 2019

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

1. The lead authority's responsibilities

The lead authority is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of the Service's financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In Glasgow City Council, that officer is the Executive Director of Finance.
- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of the resources and safeguard its assets.
- To ensure the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014), and so far as is compatible with that legislation, in accordance with proper accounting practices (section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003) and
- To approve the Annual Accounts for signature.

I confirm that these Annual Accounts were approved for signature by the Service at its meeting on the 19th September 2019.

Rhiannon Spear
Convener, WoSAS
19th September 2019

2. The Executive Director of Finance responsibilities

The Executive Director of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Service's Annual Accounts, in accordance with proper practices, as required by legislation and as set out in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code).

In preparing these Annual Accounts, the Executive Director of Finance has:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- Made judgments and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- Complied with legislation; and
- Complied with the Code.

The Executive Director of Finance has also:

- Kept adequate accounting records, which were up to date; and
- Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities

I certify that the Annual Accounts give a 'true and fair view' of the financial position of West of Scotland Archaeology Service as at 31 March 2019 and the transactions for the year then ended.

Martin Booth BA CPFA MBA
Executive Director of Finance
19th September 2019

Movement in Reserves Statement for the Year ended 31 March 2019

The Code requires reserves to be summarised as usable and unusable. The balance in WOSAS is the sole useable reserve and represents the accumulated surplus of the organisation.

The balance on the fund stands at £123,308 as at 31 March 2019, an increase of £17,990 from last year, due to the surplus on the provision of services in the year.

	Total Reserves £
Balance at 1 April 2017	94,953
Movement in reserves during 2017/18:	
Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	10,365
Other Comprehensive Income and (Expenditure)	0
Increase or (Decrease) in the year	10,365
Balance at 31 March 2018	105,318
Movement in reserves during 2018/19:	
Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	17,990
Other Comprehensive Income and (Expenditure)	0
Increase or (Decrease) in the year	17,990
Balance at 31 March 2019	123,308

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year ended 31 March 2019

2017/18 Net Exp. £		Service Note	2018/19 Net Expenditure £
149,346	Gross expenditure	3	154,722
(159,262)	Gross income	3	(171,857)
(9,916)	Cost of Services		(17,135)
(449)	Interest and investment income	7	(855)
(449)	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		(855)
(10,365)	(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services		(17,990)
0	Other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure		0
(10,365)	Total Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure		(17,990)

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – shows income and expenditure incurred in the year relating to the provision of WOSAS and other unrealised gains and losses. In total, this reflects the movement in the overall WOSAS reserves shown in the Balance Sheet.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019

31 March 18 £		Note	31 March 19 £
106,598	Net short-term debtors	8	124,621
106,598	Current Assets		124,621
(1,280)	Short-term creditors	9	(1,313)
(1,280)	Current Liabilities		(1,313)
105,318	Net Assets / (Liabilities)		123,308
105,318	Usable Reserves		123,308
0	Unusable Reserves		0
105,318	Total Reserves		123,308

Balance Sheet – represents the value of the assets and liabilities of WOSAS as at 31 March 2019. The net assets (assets less liabilities) are matched by the total Usable and Unusable Reserves.

The unaudited accounts were issued on the 14 June 2019 and the audited accounts were authorised for issue on 19th September 2019

Martin Booth BA CPFA MBA
Executive Director of Finance
19th September 2019

Notes to the accounts

The main objective of these notes is to provide further explanation for certain aspects of the core Financial Statements.

1. Statement of accounting policies

- 1.1 The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 have been compiled on the basis of recommendations made by the Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC) and have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 (the Code). The Code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) with interpretation appropriate to the public sector. The statements are designed to give a 'true and fair view' of the financial performance and position of the Service.
- 1.2 The accounting concepts of materiality, accruals, going concern and primacy of legislative requirements have been considered in the application of accounting policies. In this regard the materiality concept means that information is included where the information is of such significance as to justify its inclusion. The accruals concept requires the non-cash effects of transactions to be included in the financial statement for the year in which they occur, not in the period in which the cash is paid or received. The going concern concept assumes that the Service will not significantly curtail the scale of its operation. Wherever accounting principles and legislative requirements are in conflict the latter shall apply.
- 1.3 Suppliers' invoices received up to 31 March 2019 have been included in the accounts. In addition, various items of expenditure have been accrued in accordance with the Code where the goods or services were received prior to 31 March 2019. Salaries and wages earned to 31 March 2019 are included in the accounts for 2018/19 irrespective of when the actual payments were made.
- 1.4 Income includes all sums due in respect of subscriptions from member authorities and other organisations and interest earned on fund balances for the year ended 31 March 2019.
- 1.5 There were no complex transactions or potential future uncertainties requiring critical judgments or estimations of uncertainty in preparing the 2018/19 accounts.
- 1.6 Events after the balance sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the statement of accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events may be identified:
- Those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Financial Statements are adjusted to reflect such events; and
 - Those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Financial Statements are not adjusted to reflect such events, but where this would have a material effect, the nature and estimated financial impact of such events is disclosed in the notes.

2. New standards issued but not yet adopted

The Code requires the disclosure of information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. This applies to the adoption of the following new or amended standards within the 2019/20 Code:

- Amendments to IAS 40 Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014 – 2016 Cycle
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration
- IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments
- Amendments to IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2019 and there is therefore no impact on the 2018/19 annual accounts.

Overall, these new or amended standards are not expected to have a significant impact on the Annual Accounts.

3. Income and expenditure statement

The table below provides a detailed breakdown of income and expenditure of the Service during 2018/19.

2017/18 Net Exp. £		Note	2018/19 Net Expenditure £
Income			
(128,095)	Contributions from participating local authorities	4	(128,095)
(31,167)	Fees and charges	6	(43,762)
(449)	Interest on balances	7	(855)
(159,711)	Total income		(172,712)
Expenditure			
136,088	Employee costs	5	140,844
140	Fees and subscriptions		140
1,509	Travel and subsistence		948
6,700	Rents	11	6,700
2,900	Equipment purchase and maintenance		3,000
	Consultancy		1,085
89	Catering		35
1,920	Audit fee	12	1,970
149,346	Total expenditure		154,722
(10,365)	(Surplus) or deficit for year		(17,990)
(94,953)	(Surplus) brought forward		(105,318)
(105,318)	Accumulated (surplus) or deficit		(123,308)

4. Local authority subscriptions

The majority of income received by WOSAS is derived from contributions received from the local authorities who are members of the Service.

A detailed breakdown of each member's contribution to the Service is shown in the table below:-

Annual Subscription 2017/18 £	Local Authority	Annual Subscription 2018/19 £
(22,971)	Argyll and Bute Council	(22,971)
(8,647)	Glasgow City Council	(8,647)
(12,691)	East Ayrshire Council	(12,691)
(7,619)	East Renfrewshire Council	(7,619)
(12,691)	North Ayrshire Council	(12,691)
(12,691)	Renfrewshire Council	(12,691)
(12,691)	South Ayrshire Council	(12,691)
(17,784)	South Lanarkshire Council	(17,784)
(7,619)	West Dunbartonshire Council	(7,619)
(12,691)	West Lothian Council	(12,691)
(128,095)	Total	(128,095)

Note: - The contribution received from Glasgow City Council is net of an agreed lead authority administrative charge of £5,000.

5. Employee benefits

The staff members of the Service are Glasgow City Council employees and the Council is an admitted body of the Strathclyde Pension Fund.

In accordance with International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS 19) – Employee Benefits, the Council is required to disclose certain information concerning assets, liabilities, income and expenditure, of the pension scheme. The Service's staff pension costs are reflected in the figures disclosed in Glasgow City Council's financial statements.

The Code requires that employee benefits are recognised in the accounts when they are earned rather than when they are paid. As a result, there is a requirement to consider notional entitlements to annual leave earned but not taken as at 31 March. The employees working on the Service's activities are contracted to Glasgow City Council and therefore any notional liability has been included within the accounts of Glasgow City Council who holds the contract of employment.

6. Fees and Charges

The £43,762 total for fees and charges includes £16,667 and £9,995 for an archaeological advice service provided to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority and East Dunbartonshire Council respectively.

7. Interest

Interest is calculated on an annual basis at 31 March using an average of the Base Rate interest over the year, the rate Glasgow City Council have paid to borrow monies throughout the year and the rate Glasgow City Council have received when lending throughout the year.

8. Short-term debtors

The net short-term debtors figure for 2018/19 of £124,621 (2017/18 £106,598) comprises the following:-

31 March 2018 £	Short-term debtors	31 March 2019 £
45,294	Balance held by Glasgow City Council on behalf of WOSAS	75,532
	Outstanding payments from :-	
17,784	South Lanarkshire Council	17,784
12,691	North Ayrshire Council	0
12,691	Renfrewshire Council	12,691
7,619	East Renfrewshire Council	7,619
	East Dunbartonshire	9,995
7,619	West Dunbartonshire Council	0
2,900	Other outstanding payments	1,000
106,598	Total sundry debtors	124,621

9. Short-term creditors

The short-term creditors figure for 2018/19 of £1,313 (2017/18 £1,280) comprises the following:-

31 March 2018 £	Short-term creditors	31 March 2019 £
1,280	Accrued audit fees	1,313
1,280	Total sundry creditors	1,313

10. Remuneration Report

West of Scotland Archaeology Service is a Joint Committee comprised of several local authorities. Given that Glasgow City Council (GCC) is the lead authority, the senior management are deemed to be from GCC. Details of remuneration paid to senior management at GCC are available in the remuneration report included within GCC's financial statements. None of the employees working

on the project earn more than £50,000. No remuneration was paid to the members of the Joint Committee.

11. Related Parties

Glasgow City Council is the administering body responsible for WOSAS. The related party transactions between WOSAS and Glasgow City Council are shown in the table below:-

2017/18 Net Exp/(Inc) £	Debtor/(Creditor) at 31 March 2018 £	Related Party transactions and balances	2018/19 Exp £	2018/19 Inc £	Debtor/(Creditor) at 31 March 2019 £
		Related bodies			
(1,947)	45,294	Glasgow City Council	6,700	8,647	75,532

12. Auditor remuneration

WOSAS incurred fees of £1,970 for the statutory inspection of the financial statements by Audit Scotland. The comparable figure for 2017/18 was £1,920. Fees payable in respect of other services provided by the appointed auditor were £nil (2017/18 £nil).

13. Events after the balance sheet date

There were no material events between 31 March 2019 and the date of signing that require to be reflected in the Financial Statements.

Annual Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

The West of Scotland Archaeology Service Joint Committee is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. The Joint Committee also has a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure best value; to ensure public funds and assets are used economically, efficiently and effectively and to ensure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised.

In discharging this responsibility, members are responsible for ensuring proper arrangements for the governance of the Service's affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes the management of risk.

WOSAS's financial management arrangements conform with the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2016) by virtue of the adoption by Glasgow City Council of a Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.

The Code is regularly reviewed and evidences the Council's commitment to achieving good governance and demonstrates how it complies with recommended standards.

The Joint Committee relies on the Council which has embedded a system of risk management and internal control. While providing reasonable assurance, these systems cannot, however, provide absolute assurance or certainty in entirely eliminating the risk of the Council failing to achieve its aims and objectives; incurring material errors; losses; fraud or breaches of laws and regulations.

The Joint Committee's Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Joint Committee is directed and controlled. Through the framework it is accountable to, engages with and leads the community. It enables the Joint Committee to monitor the achievement of its objectives against its plans and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services. The governance framework will be continually updated to reflect best practice, new legislative requirements and the expectations of stakeholders.

The Joint Committee has responsibility for ensuring the continuing effectiveness of its governance framework and system of internal control. The main features of the Joint Committee's governance arrangements are as follows:-

- A Minute Of Agreement between the member councils of WOSAS
- The Joint Committee is supported by a Steering Group of officers and councillors from the member councils and other bodies
- Clearly defined Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations
- Public performance reporting through the Annual Report
- Regular meetings of the WOSAS Officer Steering Group and the Joint Committee
- A budget setting process which includes the agreed local authority and other bodies contributions to the annual running costs of the organisation
- The regulation of employee matters through the Council's Code of Conduct for employees

Review of Effectiveness

The Council's governance arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the new legislative requirements and the expectations of stakeholders. The effectiveness of the framework, including the system of internal control, is considered at least annually and is informed by:

- (a) The work of the members of the Corporate Management Team, who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment.
- (b) Oversight by the Director of Governance and Solicitor to the Council.
- (c) The Head of Audit and Inspection's annual report. Internal Audit adheres to standards and guidelines laid down by relevant bodies and professional institutions and complies with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) which have been adopted by the Relevant Internal Audit Standard Setters (RIASS). The RIASS includes, among others, HM Treasury, the Scottish Government and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).
- (d) Observations made by external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.
- (e) The completion of a self-assessment questionnaire by Service Directors and Managing Directors/Chief Executives of subsidiaries and relevant associates. This questionnaire is aligned to the principles contained in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government, and requires assessments to be made of the extent to which arrangements within each Service/organisation comply with these principles. The responses to the questionnaires are confirmed on a sample basis by Internal Audit, as part of a rolling programme of corporate governance reviews.
- (f) The completion of signed statements of internal control by all Service Directors and the Managing Directors/Chief Executives of subsidiaries and relevant associates. Such statements were received for 2018/19, declaring that "There are, in my opinion, no significant matters that require to be raised in this Certificate, which is provided to support Glasgow City Council's Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2018/19, as it is my opinion that the procedures which have been designed to ensure proper governance and financial control are operating adequately".

- (g) The exercising, by the two Scrutiny Committees, of respective remits including scrutiny of the performance of Services, subsidiaries and relevant associates, including financial management, statutory and other performance, and outcomes set through the GCPP Community Plan, which are relevant to partnership working and monitoring internal financial control, corporate risk management and corporate governance, and receiving and considering summaries of internal and external audit reports.
- (h) In June 2018, a survey of Elected Members was undertaken to review governance arrangements and identify any lessons learned in relation to the effectiveness of Committees.

Senior officers have been advised on the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework by Internal and External Audit, and plans to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the systems are in place.

Governance Developments and Future Activity

The following activity is planned, in relation to the governance framework, in 2019/20:

- The Risk Management Policy and Framework and the Pentana risk management system will continue to be applied and used and the first review of the Framework will be completed in 2019/20.
- Continued implementation of the recommendations arising from the Improvement Service review of governance and accountability arrangements and the Best Value Assurance Report.
- Review of the Corporate Asset Management Plan.
- Review and relaunch of the Customer Care Strategy.
- Continuation of the Council Family Review and review of the ALEO Governance Framework.
- The current Records Management Plan, required by the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011 and approved by the Keeper of the Records of Scotland in 2014, will be reviewed and a new plan will be submitted for approval in 2019/20.

Update on significant governance issues previously reported

During 2015/16 an Internal Audit into Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity controls concluded that the control environment was unsatisfactory and identified a number of improvement actions for the Council and its (then) ICT partner ACCESS. All of the original findings from that audit have been fully implemented through a new corporate business continuity framework. A subsequent Business Continuity audit found elements of non-compliance with the new framework. There is also a need for the Council to ensure that recovery time objectives for ICT systems in Business Continuity Plans are reasonable and appropriate, and match the actual provision in ICT Disaster Recovery Plans. Failure to do so may reduce the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements to respond to ICT applications being unavailable, and result in system down-times exceeding tolerances set out in Business Continuity Plans. Internal Audit will undertake further assurance work in this area during 2019/20.

Significant Governance Issues

Where the audit opinion arising from an audit states that the control environment has been assessed as unsatisfactory the concerns highlighted are reported in the Annual Governance Statement. During 2018/19 there were no unsatisfactory opinions issued relating to the Council's assurance.

Internal audit Opinion

Based on the audit work undertaken, the assurances provided by Service Directors and Managing Directors/Chief Executives of subsidiaries and relevant associates and, excluding the significant issues noted above, it is the Head of Audit and Inspection's opinion that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance and internal control environment which operated during 2018/19 in the West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

Certification

It is our opinion that reasonable assurance can be placed upon the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of governance and internal control that operate in the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and that these arrangements were in place for the whole of 2018/19.

We will continue to review and enhance, as necessary, our governance arrangements.

Rhiannon Spear
Convener, WoSAS
19th September 2019

Martin Booth BA CPFA MBA
Executive Director of Finance
19th September 2019

Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of West of Scotland Archaeology Service and the Accounts Commission

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service for the year ended 31 March 2019 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 (the 2018/19 Code).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2018/19 Code of the state of the affairs of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service as at 31 March 2019 and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2018/19 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the [Code of Audit Practice](#) approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I was appointed under arrangements approved by the Accounts Commission on 10 April 2017. The period of total uninterrupted appointment is three years. I am independent of the West of Scotland Archaeology Service in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to West of Scotland Archaeology Service. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Executive Director of Finance has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the West of Scotland Archaeology Service's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Risks of material misstatement

I have reported in a separate Annual Audit Report, which is available from the [Audit Scotland website](#), the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that I identified and my conclusions thereon.

Responsibilities of the Executive Director of Finance and the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Joint Committee for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities, the Executive Director of Finance is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Executive Director of Finance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Executive Director of Finance is responsible for assessing the West of Scotland Archaeology Service's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless deemed inappropriate.

The West of Scotland Archaeology Service Joint Committee is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals

involved. I therefore design and perform audit procedures which respond to the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Other information in the annual accounts

The Executive Director of Finance is responsible for the other information in the annual accounts. The other information comprises the information other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission to the extent explicitly stated later in this report.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read all the other information in the annual accounts and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Report on other requirements

Opinions on matters prescribed by the Accounts Commission

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

In addition to my responsibilities for the annual accounts, my conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of Best Value, are set out in my Annual Audit Report.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Stephen O'Hagan
Senior Audit Manager
Audit Scotland
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September 2019