

**CENTRAL SOUTH
CONSORTIUM
JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE
JOINT COMMITTEE**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2014/15

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Explanatory Foreword

1. Introduction

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Service was created on 1st September 2012 to provide a range of school improvement services within the local authority areas of Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Consortium is managed and administered by the Central South Consortium Joint Committee, under powers conferred by the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994. The Joint Committee is made up of five members, one from each Local Authority. Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC became the Host Authority upon formation of the Joint Committee.

The information contained in these accounts allows the user to see the nature of the transactions from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 and its financial composition as at that date.

These accounts will present:

- the financial statements legally required and their supporting notes,
- the accounting policies that have been applied when preparing the accounts.

2. Summary of Financial Performance

The table shows the budgeted controllable income and expenditure against the actual controllable income and expenditure for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015:

	Budget £'000	Actual £'000	Variance £'000
Expenditure			
Employees	3,651	3,798	147
Premises	501	550	49
Transport	94	39	(55)
Supplies & Services	544	552	8
Third Party Payments	434	390	(44)
Support Services	83	109	26
	5,307	5,438	131
Income			
Local Authority Contributions	(4,416)	(4,416)	0
Grants & Other Income	(891)	(1,104)	(213)
	(5,307)	(5,520)	(213)
Net Expenditure	0	(82)	(82)

The reasons for the variances between budgeted and actual expenditure were:

- Employees – Includes £100k funding of the £1.39m redundancy costs relating to the service restructure. See explanatory foreword Note 7 for further explanation of the service restructure.
- Premises - Transfer of grant costs into the core service.
- Transport – Staggered appointments, vacancies and changes in working practices have reduced costs.
- Supplies & Services –
 - Unbudgeted costs incurred in relation to the cost of running courses at the Hubs, offset by income reported below.
 - Some eligible core budgeted projects were funded from grants.
- Third Party Payments –
 - Costs of additional responsibilities passed to the consortium including Governor Support, SACRE, and 14-19.
 - Some eligible core budgeted projects were funded from grants.
- Support Services - Transfer of grant costs into the core service.
- Income –
 - Increased restaurant and conference centre income due to high volume of conference centre bookings.
 - Additional income not budgeted in respect of the Hubs Courses offsetting expenditure outlined above.

In addition, the following categories of income and expenditure relating to specific grants were processed through the consortium accounts:

	Actual £'000
Expenditure	
Employees	2,727
Premises	6
Transport	50
Supplies & Services	64,382
Third Party Payments	610
	67,775
Income	
Grants & Other Income	(67,775)
	(67,775)
Net Expenditure	0

As at 31st March 2015, the Central South Consortium held General Reserves of £53k. Movements on reserves are detailed within the Movement in Reserves Statement.

3. **Capital Expenditure 2014/15**

No expenditure this financial year.

4. **Pensions Assets and Liabilities**

As a result of International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 “Employee Benefits”, local authorities are required to account for pensions liabilities in respect of the cost of decisions made up to the balance sheet date. Please refer to note 17.0 to the Core Financial Statements for further details.

The effect of IAS 19 upon the reserves of the Joint Committee is as follows:

	£'000
Net Assets/(Liabilities) excluding Pensions Reserve	(334)
Net Assets/(Liabilities) as per Balance Sheet	(1,306)

5. **Introduction to Accounting Statements**

Statement of Accounting Policies

The purpose of this statement is to explain the basis of the figures in the accounts. It outlines the accounting policies adopted.

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

This sets out the responsibilities of the Council as the administering Authority and the Group Director - Corporate Services for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts. The Statement has to be signed and dated by the presiding member at the Joint Committee meeting at which the Accounts are approved.

Certificate of the Group Director - Corporate Services

This is the certificate of the true and fair presentation of the accounts by the Group Director - Corporate Services.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Joint Committee, analysed into ‘usable reserves’ (i.e. those that the Joint Committee may use to provide services, subject to the need to

maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use) and 'unusable reserves'. The Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Joint Committee's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement is prepared to record income and expenditure on an accruals basis. It includes items such as salaries and wages, running costs of the service and income received. The statement is based upon International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Joint Committee. The net assets of the Joint Committee (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Joint Committee.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Joint Committee during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Joint Committee generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows into operating and investing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Joint Committee are funded from the recipients of services provided.

Annual Governance Statement

This statement sets out the framework within which Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, as administering authority, manages and reviews internal control. It outlines the main components of the framework, including the arrangements for Internal Audit and how the consortium has complied with the various elements of the framework.

6. Grant Funding Changes

Until 2012/13 the Welsh Government paid education grants directly to the individual authorities. From 2013/14 these grants were paid to the consortium who then allocate the funding to the authorities and schools. These transactions are recognised in the accounts of the Joint Committee from 2013/14 and impact upon:

- CI&E Statement:
 - Receipt of grant from WG in 'Grants & Other Income'
 - Payment of grant to LA's in 'Supplies & Services'

- Balance Sheet:
 - Outstanding receipts due from WG in Debtors
 - Outstanding payments due to LA's in Creditors

7. Service Restructure

On its formation the consortium was organised in two distinct units, with the School Improvement Service (SIS) providing the school monitoring functions on behalf of the five Local Authorities, and the Learning & Innovation Network for Schools (LiNKS) offering support services and courses to schools.

Following the publication of the 'National Model for Regional Working' by the Welsh Government in February 2014 the service has been restructured into a single operating unit, effective from the 2014/15 financial year.

The impact on the accounts are as follows:

- General Reserves were previously allocated separately to the SIS and LiNKS units. These have been combined into a single reserve on the 2014/15 balance sheet and the 2013/14 prior-year comparators.
- Redundancy payments totalling £1.39m were incurred during 2014/15. The Joint Committee has agreed to use £528k of General Reserves to part-fund these costs, with the balance being met through an annual contribution from the revenue budget until 2022/23.

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts Central South Consortium Joint Education Service

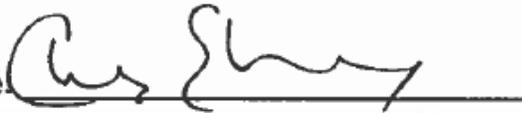
The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of the Joint Committee's financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Council, that officer is the Group Director – Corporate Services.
- To manage its affairs to ensure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.

The Joint Committee's Responsibilities

- To approve the accounts.

Signature 

Date: 14th Sept 2015

Chair of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee

Cllr Christopher Elmore
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4RU

Movement in Reserves Statement for the Period ended 31st March 2015

	CSEC General Reserves	Earmarked Reserves	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total CSEC Reserves
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Notes:	16.1	16.2		17.0	
Balance as at 1st April 2014	534	392	926	(846)	80
Movement in reserves during 2014/15					
Surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services (accounting basis)	(418)	0	(418)	0	(418)
Other comprehensive income and expenditure	0	0	0	(206)	(206)
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	(418)	0	(418)	(206)	(624)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations					
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:					
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CI&ES	772	0	772	(772)	0
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(822)	0	(822)	822	0
Adjustments primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:					
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CI&ES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	33	0	33	(33)	0
Net increase or (decrease) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(435)	0	(435)	(189)	(624)
Transfers to or from Earmarked Reserves	(46)	46	0	0	0
Increase or (decrease) in the Year	(481)	46	(435)	(189)	(624)
Balance as at 31st March 2015	53	438	491	(1,035)	(544)

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the Period ended 31st March 2015

Year ended 31/03/14 £'000		Year ended 31/03/15 £'000	Note
	Expenditure		
7,395	Employees	7,781	3.0
605	Premises	556	4.0
104	Transport	88	5.0
49,398	Supplies & Services	64,934	6.0
667	Third Party Payments	900	
95	Support Services	109	
58,264		74,368	
	Income		
(4,417)	Local Authority Contributions	(5,178)	
(53,983)	Grants & Other Income	(68,791)	
(58,400)		(73,969)	7.0
(136)	Net Cost of Services	399	
(1)	Interest Receivable and Similar Income	0	24.0
0	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	2	24.0
43	Net Interest on Net Defined Liability	17	18.2
(94)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	418	
(755)	Actuarial (Gains)/Losses on Pension Fund Assets & Liabilities	206	18.2
(849)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	624	

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2015

31/03/14		31/03/15	Note
£'000		£'000	
0	Long Term Assets		
	Debtors	662	12.0
2	Current Assets		
	Inventories	1	11.0
16,647	Debtors	11,864	13.0
16,649	Total Current Assets	11,865	
	Current Liabilities		
(15,753)	Creditors	(12,099)	14.0
896	Net Current Assets	(234)	
896	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	428	
	Long-Term Liabilities		
(816)	Defined Benefit Pension Scheme Liability	(972)	18.5
80	Net Assets/(Liabilities)	(544)	
	Represented by:		
	Usable Reserves		
534	General Reserves	53	16.1
392	Earmarked Reserves	438	16.2
	Unusable Reserves		
(816)	Pensions Reserve	(972)	18.5
(30)	Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absence Account	(63)	17.2
80	Total Reserves	(544)	

Cash Flow Statement for the Period ended 31st March 2015

Year ended 31/03/14 £'000		Year ended 31/03/15 £'000	Note
	Operating Activities		
	Cash Outflows		
7,122	Cash Paid to and on Behalf of Employees	7,815	
38,533	Other Operating Cash Payments	66,959	
0	Interest Paid	2	
	Cash Inflows		
(43,706)	Cash Received for Goods & Services	(78,184)	
(1)	Interest Received	0	
1,948		(3,408)	21.0
1,948	Net (Increase) or Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(3,408)	21.0
	Analysis of Changes in Cash and Cash Equivalents		
1,366	Balance as at 1 st April	3,314	
1,948	Net Cash (Inflows)/Outflows	(3,408)	
3,314	Cash Balance Owed To/(From) Host Authority	(94)	

All cash transactions are administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC as Central South Consortium does not operate its own bank account.

Notes to the Core Financial Statements

1.0 Accounting Policies

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) 2014/15 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the Service Reporting Code of Practice for Local Authorities 2014/15 (SeRCOP).

1.1 Accruals of Expenditure and Income

The accounts of the Joint Committee have been prepared on an accrual of income and expenditure basis in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. This ensures activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place not when cash payments are made or received.

Revenue from the sale of goods or services is recognised when the Joint Committee transfers the significant risks and rewards of goods or provides the services to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Joint Committee.

Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where there is a gap between the date material supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.

Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows determined by the contract.

1.2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

All cash transactions are administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC as Central South Consortium does not operate its own bank account.

1.3 Inventories

Inventories of stock are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. When such inventories are sold, exchanged or distributed, the carrying amount shall be recognised as an expense when the income (if any) is recognised.

1.4 Value Added Tax

Income and expenditure excludes any amounts related to VAT, as all VAT collected is payable to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and all VAT paid is recoverable from them.

1.5 Reserves

The Joint Committee sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. These are deemed Earmarked Reserves. Earmarked Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Reserves in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year. To ensure this isn't a charge against General Reserves, the expenditure is funded via an adjustment in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Joint Committee.

1.6 Income

Income is credited to the year of account to which it relates, regardless of when that income was actually received.

1.7 Cost of Support Services

The costs of support services have been charged to the Consortium in line with agreed Service Level Agreements.

1.8 Employee Benefits

All costs relating to employee benefits are accounted for on an accruals basis.

Pensions

The Joint Committee participates in two separate pension schemes.

Staff on Teachers Terms & Conditions - This is an unfunded scheme administered by the Teachers' Pension Agency. The Agency sets contribution rates on the basis of a notional fund. Whilst this is a defined benefit scheme, the Teachers Pensions Agency is unable to identify the Joint Committee's share of the underlying assets and liabilities and accordingly, the Joint Committee has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

Other employees - Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC administer a fund on behalf of employees under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations

1997 (as amended), under which contribution rates are set by the fund's actuary based on triennial actuarial valuations. Under the regulations, contribution rates are set in order to lead to full funding of the overall liability of the Fund over time. The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a Defined Benefit Scheme.

- The liabilities of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund attributable to the Joint Committee are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 3.3%. (4.3% 2013/14)
- The Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension fund is a multi-employer scheme. The assets of the Fund are not formally allocated to any employer within the fund, and are not the legal property of any employer within the Fund. For the purpose of completing the calculations for each triennial valuation of the Fund, the actuary calculates a notional allocation of assets for each employer. The assets of the pension fund notionally attributed to the Joint Committee are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

Quoted Securities	–	Current Bid Price
Unitised Securities	–	Current Bid Price
Property	–	Market Value

- The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:
 - Current Service Cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked plus administration expenses.
 - Past Service Cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
 - Net Interest – interest on the present value of liabilities and interest on the net changes in those liabilities over the period, calculated using the discount rate at the start of the period, offset by interest applied to assets and the net changes in the assets over the period using the discount rate at the start of the period – represented in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure section of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- Settlements and Curtailments – the result of actions to relieve the Council of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees – debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Actuarial Gains and Losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their financial / demographic or experience assumptions – debited or credited to the Pensions Reserve.
- Contributions Paid to the Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the Pension Fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the Joint Committee Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Joint Committee to the Pension Fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Reserves of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Joint Committee is able to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any such liabilities arising are accrued in the year of decision to make the award in line with the LGPS scheme rules.

Accumulated Absences

The Joint Committee accrues for staff holidays earned but not taken at each year-end. The Welsh Government has issued regulations to mitigate the impact of this charge. This Joint Committee has taken advantage of the regulations and charged the additional costs to the Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absences Account in Unusable Reserves.

1.9 Government Grants and Other Contributions

Grants and other contributions relating to capital and revenue expenditure shall be accounted for on an accruals basis and recognised

in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when there is reasonable assurance that;

- the conditions for their receipt have been/will be complied with, and
- the grant or contribution will be received.

Monies advanced where there is no reasonable assurance of the above two criteria, are held as creditors in the Balance Sheet.

Where a revenue grant has been recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but not yet used to fund expenditure, it is set aside as an Earmarked Reserve.

Where a claim has yet to be signed off by the Wales Audit Office, Balance Sheet values in relation to grants are included on an unaudited draft claim basis.

1.10 Leases

Whether a lease is a finance or operating lease depends upon the substance of the transaction rather than the legal form. Leases are reviewed at inception and classed as finance or operating by reviewing arrangements such as:

- Transfer of ownership at the end of lease contract.
- Option to purchase asset at a price lower than fair value.
- Lease term is for major part of economic life of asset.
- Present value of minimum lease payments amounts to at least substantially all of the fair value of leased asset.
- Leased assets are specialist and only the lessee can use them without major modifications.
- Leases of land and buildings are considered separately for the purpose of lease classification.

Finance Leases

A finance lease is one which transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset.

Where the Joint Committee is lessee, an asset and liability is recognised at lease inception. The asset is subsequently depreciated and revalued as though it were the legal property of the Joint Committee. The liability reduces as lease payments are made.

Operating Leases

An operating lease is deemed to be any lease other than a Finance Lease.

Where the Joint Committee is lessee, lease payments are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

on a straight-line basis unless another systematic basis is more representative of the benefits received.

1.11 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the reporting period are those both favourable and unfavourable that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The financial statements are authorised for issue in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2005 (as amended). Regulations state the Statement of Accounts shall be authorised for issue when certified by the Responsible Finance Officer. Certification of unaudited accounts takes place by 30th June following financial year-end.

Regulations require the audited Statement of Accounts to be published by 30th September. The published Statement of Accounts shall reflect events after the reporting period up to the date the accounts were authorised for issue. This is the date the Responsible Finance Officer re-certifies the accounts.

Two types of events can be identified;

- a) those that provide evidence of conditions existing at the end of the reporting period (adjusting events that shall be recognised in the financial statements),
- b) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period (non-adjusting events that are not reflected in accounting statements but where material, disclosure is made in the Notes to the Core Financial Statements).

2.0 Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

This Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Joint Committee about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because assets and liabilities cannot always be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates. The items in the Joint Committee's Balance Sheet at 31st March 2015 for which there is a significant risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

2.1 Pensions Liability

- Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages,

mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. AON Hewitt is engaged to provide the Joint Committee with advice about the assumptions to be applied.

- The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured, however the assumptions interact in complex ways.

3.0 Officers' Emoluments

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
	Salaries & Wages	
4,365	Advisors	4,532
642	Administration	709
302	Management	237
148	Finance Team	179
50	Catering Staff	48
39	Site Staff	39
17	Cleaning Staff	18
1,485	Agency	620
0	Employee Redundancy	1,390
46	Employee Insurance	35
16	Employee Advertising	41
7,110	Sub Total	7,848
285	IAS 19 adjustments	(67)
7,395	Total	7,781

4.0 Premises Costs

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
313	Rent	277
66	Repair and Maintenance	55
54	Electricity and Gas	49
5	Cleaning Materials	5
167	Rates and Water Charges	170
605	Total	556

5.0 Transport

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
100	Car Allowances	86
4	Vehicle Hire	2
104	Total	88

6.0 Supplies and Services

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
350	Office Expenses	2,586
775	Consultants Fees	1,525
344	Grants & Subscriptions	146
119	Office Equipment	134
60	Computer Costs	132
57	Catering Costs	48
81	Photocopying	59
15	Printing	0
2	Subscriptions	4
49	Marketing	37
9	Audit Fees	16
8	Clothing	7
18	Telephones	23
17	Postage	9
174	Training	255
4	Provision for Bad Debt	0
	Grants paid to local authorities & Schools:	
7,551	SEG	6,302
10,934	PDG	23,082
28,209	Foundation Phase	27,685
0	Schools Challenge Cymru	2,313
622	Other	571
49,398	Total	64,934

7.0 Income

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
	Contributions	
(1,535)	The City of Cardiff Council	(1,535)
(1,237)	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC	(1,236)
(698)	Bridgend CBC	(698)
(653)	Vale of Glamorgan Council	(653)
(294)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC	(294)
0	Redundancy cost funded from annual revenue budget	(762)
(4,417)	Total Contributions	(5,178)
	Other Income	
(1,074)	School Income	(813)
(917)	Other	(154)
(51,800)	Grants	(67,631)
(192)	Catering	(193)
(53,983)	Total Other Income	(68,791)
(58,400)	Total Income	(73,969)

8.0 Related Party Transactions

In accordance with IAS 24, the Joint Committee has a duty to disclose any material transactions with a "related party". This is to ensure that financial statements contain disclosures necessary to draw attention to the possibility that the reported financial position and results may have been affected by the existence of related parties and by material transactions with them.

All cash transactions are administered by the host authority as the consortium does not operate its own bank account. At 31st March 2015 the Council owes the consortium £94k relating to these cash transactions (The consortium owed RCT £3,314k as at 31st March 2014). During 2014/15, Central South Consortium was charged £91k by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC in respect of Central Establishment Charges (included in table below).

The Joint Committee provides advisory and inspection services to the Local Authorities and its Schools within the Consortium. During the year, transactions with related parties arose as follows:

2013/14		Local Authority	2014/15	
Exp. £'000	Inc. £'000		Exp. £'000	Inc. £'000
857	(1,984)	The City of Cardiff Council	1,993	(1,827)
946	(2,457)	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC	344	(1,338)
246	(938)	Bridgend CBC	649	(808)
322	(864)	Vale of Glamorgan Council	727	(767)
83	(400)	Merthyr Tydfil CBC	211	(402)

In addition, the consortium received various grants from the Welsh Government and paid these to the Local Authorities (including their schools) as follows:

2013/14 £'000	Local Authority	2014/15 £'000
16,909	The City of Cardiff Council	21,717
13,482	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC	17,207
7,194	Bridgend CBC	8,993
6,364	Vale of Glamorgan Council	7,483
3,367	Merthyr Tydfil CBC	4,592

Pension contributions are made to both the Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Pension Fund and the Teachers Pension Agency, in respect of Joint Committee employees. See notes 17.0 and 18.0 for further information.

Interests of Members of the Joint Committee are maintained in a register held by their own Local Authority. The following organisations are related parties (by virtue of Member interest in them) with whom the Joint Committee has had dealings:

Category of Organisation	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Educational Establishments	113	90

The table above does not include payments to/from the Local Authorities or schools within the consortium. These are included elsewhere within this note.

9.0 Audit Fees

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
9	Wales Audit Office Fees Relating to External Audit	16

10.0 Leases

The Joint Committee uses general office equipment which is financed under the terms of an operating lease. Operating lease rentals paid to lessors in 2014/15 totalled £12k.

There are no long-term lease agreements at the balance sheet date.

The Joint Committee holds no assets on Finance Leases.

11.0 Inventories

Inventories consist of food stock in respect of the Restaurant.

31/03/14 £'000		31/03/15 £'000
1	Balance as at 1st April	2
61	Purchases	48
(60)	Recognised as an Expense in the Year	(47)
0	Written Off	(2)
2	Balance as at 31st March	1

12.0 Long Term Debtors

In 2014/15 the Joint Committee incurred redundancy costs totalling £1.390m. £528k of these costs have been funded through a transfer

from General Reserves and a £100k contribution from the 2014/15 revenue budget. The balance of £762k is split £100k due within one year shown under note 13.0 Short Term Debtors and £662k in Long Term Debtors which will be cleared through further annual contributions until 2022/23.

13.0 Short Term Debtors

31/03/14 £'000		31/03/15 £'000
14	Host Authority	96
160	Local Authorities and Schools	176
16,409	Central Government Bodies	11,536
71	Other Entities and Individuals	59
16,654		11,867
(7)	Provision for Bad Debt	(3)
16,647	Balance as at 31st March	11,864

14.0 Creditors

31/03/14 £'000		31/03/15 £'000
(5,344)	Host Authority	(4)
(10,186)	Local Authorities and Schools	(11,887)
0	Central Government Bodies	(18)
(193)	Other	(127)
(30)	Employee Absences Accrual	(63)
(15,753)	Balance as at 31st March	(12,099)

All cash transaction are administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC as the Central South Consortium does not operate its own bank account. The host authority creditor includes the 'cash' balance owed by the Consortium to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

15.0 Amounts Reported for Resource Allocation Decisions

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is that specified by the SeRCOP. However, decisions about resource allocation are taken by the Joint Committee on the basis of budget reports analysed across groups. These reports are prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements. The following reconciles controllable costs to Net Cost of Services and to the (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services.

Service Information for 2014/15				Core Service	Grants	Total
				£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				(5,520)	(67,775)	(73,295)
Costs						
Employees				3,798	2,727	6,525
Premises				550	6	556
Transport				39	50	89
Supplies & Services				552	64,382	64,934
Third Party Payments				390	610	1,000
Support Services				109	0	109
Net Controllable Costs				(82)	0	(82)
Reconciliation to Net Cost of Services in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						
Add amounts included in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Net Cost of Services but not included as reported controllable costs						1,403
Remove amounts included within reported controllable costs but not included within Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement						(922)
Net Cost of Services						399
Reconciliation to Subjective 2014/15						
	Service Analysis	Not Reported to Management	Not Included in CI&ES	Net Cost of Services	Corporate Amounts	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fees, Charges & Other Service Income	(68,879)	88	0	(68,791)	0	(68,791)
Local Authority Contributions	(4,416)	(762)	0	(5,178)	0	(5,178)
Total Income	(73,295)	(674)	0	(73,969)	0	(73,969)
Employee Expenses	6,525	2,077	(822)	7,780	17	7,797
Other Service Expenses	66,688	0	(100)	66,588	0	66,588
Interest Paid	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total Operating Expenses	73,213	2,077	(922)	74,368	19	74,387
(Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	(82)	1,403	(922)	399	19	418

16.0 Movement on Usable Reserves

	General Reserves £'000	Earmarked Reserves £'000	Total £'000
Balance as at 1 st April 2014	534	392	926
Increase/(Decrease)	(481)	46	(435)
Balance as at 31st March 2015	53	438	491

16.1 CSEC General Reserves

The Fund Balance is a distributable revenue reserve, which consists of the accumulated surpluses of the Consortium's operations.

	Total £'000
Balance as at 1 st April 2014	534
Increase/(Decrease) 2014/15	(481)
Balance as at 31st March 2015	53

16.2 Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Reserves balance in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure. All earmarked reserves are deemed to be revenue reserves.

	Balance at 31/03/14 £'000	Transfers Out £'000	Transfers In £'000	Balance at 31/03/15 £'000
Revenue Grant Reserves	392	(392)	305	305
Funding for Specific Projects	0	0	133	133
Total	392	(392)	438	438

17.0 Movements on Unusable Reserves

Reserve	Pension Reserve £'000	Short-Term Acc Comp Absence Account £'000	Total £'000
Balance as at 1 st April 2014	(816)	(30)	(846)
Increase / (Decrease)	(156)	(33)	(189)
Balance as at 31st March 2015	(972)	(63)	(1,035)

17.1 Pension Reserve

The Pension Reserve is the balancing account to offset the inclusion of Pension Liability in the Balance Sheet as required by IAS 19 “Employee Benefits”. See note 17.0 for further information.

17.2 Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absences Account

The Short-Term Accumulating Compensated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on CSEC Reserves from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31st March 2015.

	2014/15 £'000
Balance as at 1st April 2014	(30)
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	30
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(63)
Balance as at 31st March 2015	(63)

18.0 Retirement Benefits – Defined Benefit Schemes**18.1 Participation in Pension Schemes**

As part of their terms and conditions, the employees of Central South Consortium are offered retirement benefits by the Joint Committee. Although these benefits will not be payable until retirement, the Joint Committee has a commitment to make these payments. The liability for these payments needs to be accounted for at the time future entitlement is earned.

The Joint Committee participates in two pension schemes:

- Teachers – Please refer to note 19.0.
- Other employees – The Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. This is a funded defined benefit salary scheme, meaning that the Joint Committee and participants pay contributions into the fund calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. The pension costs that are charged to the Joint Committees’ accounts are defined by IAS 19 “Employee Benefits”.

18.2 Transactions Relating to Post-Employment Benefits

The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account when earned by employees, rather than when benefits are actually paid as pensions. However, the charge required to be made to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account is based on the cash payable in the year. The cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been posted in the year:

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
<i>Cost of Services:</i>		
Current Service Cost	852	687
Past Service Cost	24	68
Settlements and curtailments	0	0
<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>		
Net Interest Expense	43	17
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	919	772
<i>Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability Comprising:</i>		
Return on Plan Assets (Excluding the Amount included in the Net Interest Expense)	(339)	(898)
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities – Demographic Assumptions	(347)	0
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities – Financial Assumptions	(668)	1,126
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities – Experience	599	(22)
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	164	978
<i>Movement in Reserves Statement</i>		
Reversal of Net Charges Made to the Surplus or Deficit for the Provision of Services for Post Employment Benefits in Accordance with the Code	(919)	(772)
<i>Actual Amount Charged Against the General Fund Balance for Pensions in the Year:</i>		
Employers' Contributions Payable to Scheme	591	822

The total remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure to the 31st March 2015 is a loss of £206k. (£755k Gain in 2013/14)

The cumulative amount of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement to the year ending 31st March 2015 is a loss of £581k.

The figures above do not include allowance for any membership (or associated assets) relating to members who have joined the employer but have not yet exercised their option to link their past service rights to their current employment.

18.3 Reconciliation of Present Value of the Scheme Liabilities

	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Opening balance at 1 st April	7,440	9,453
Current Service Cost	852	687
Interest Cost on Defined Obligation	362	391
Contributions by Scheme Participants	235	268
<i>Remeasurement (Gains) and Losses:</i>		
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities – Demographic Assumptions	(347)	0
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities – Financial Assumptions	(668)	1,126
Actuarial (Gains) and Losses Arising on Liabilities – Experience	599	(22)
Benefits Paid	956	(1,003)
Past Service Costs	24	68
Entity combinations	0	0
Curtailments	0	0
Settlements	0	0
Carried Forward at 31st March	9,453	10,968

18.4 Reconciliation of Fair Value of the Scheme Assets

	2013/14 £'000	2014/15 £'000
Opening balance at as at 1 st April	6,197	8,637
Interest Income	319	374
<i>Remeasurement (Gains) and Losses</i>		
The Return on Plan Assets, Excluding the Amount Included in the Net Interest Expense	339	898
Other	0	0
Employer Contributions	591	822
Contributions by Scheme Participants	235	268
Benefits paid	956	(1,003)
Entity Combinations	0	0
Settlements	0	0
Carried Forward as at 31st March	8,637	9,996

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current

investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the Balance Sheet date.

Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets. The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £1.272m (£0.658m gain in 2013/14).

18.5 Scheme History

	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000
Present Value of Defined Obligation	(9,453)	(10,968)
Fair Value of Plan Assets	8,637	9,996
Surplus / (Deficit)	(816)	(972)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Joint Committee has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £972k has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Joint Committee as recorded in the Balance Sheet.

However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Joint Committee remains healthy. The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, as assessed by the scheme actuary.

18.6 Local Government Pension Scheme Assets

Local Government Pension Scheme Assets (full scheme not JES element) are comprised as follows:

	Fair Value of Scheme Assets	
	2013/14	2014/15
	£'000	£'000
UK Equities	462,816	500,938
Overseas Equities	1,112,695	1,147,728
UK Fixed Interest Gilts	176,791	208,144
UK Index Linked Gilts	13,111	-
UK Corporate Bonds	240,655	242,101
Overseas Government Bonds	-	22,526
Overseas Corporate Bonds	18,378	37,577
Property	130,201	134,011
Cash and net current assets	65,050	95,942
Total	2,219,697	2,388,967

18.7 Basis for Estimating Assets & Liabilities

The Rhondda Cynon Taf Pension Fund employs a building block approach in determining the rate of return on Fund assets. Historical

markets are studied and assets with higher volatility are assumed to generate higher returns consistent with widely accepted capital market principles. The assumed rate of return on each asset class is set out within this note. The overall expected rate of return on assets is then derived by aggregating the expected return for each asset class over the actual asset allocation for the Fund as at 31st March 2015.

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Council Fund liabilities have been assessed by AON Hewitt, an independent firm of actuaries, with estimates for the Council Fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31st March 2013.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	31/03/14	31/03/15
Long-Term Expected Rate of Return on Assets in the Scheme (in line with the discount rate)	5.6%	5.6%
Mortality Assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners:		
Men	22.9	23.0
Women	25.8	25.9
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	25.1	25.2
Women	28.2	28.3
RPI Inflation	3.4%	3.0%
CPI Inflation	2.4%	1.9%
Rate of Increase in Salaries	3.9%	3.4%
Rate of Increase in Pensions	2.4%	1.9%
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.3%	3.3%
Take-up of Option to Convert Annual Pension into Retirement Lump Sum:		
Post-2010 Service	75%	75%
Pre-2010 Service	75%	75%

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

	Increase in Assumption £'000	Decrease in Assumption £'000
Longevity (Increase or Decrease in 1 Year)	288	(288)
Rate of Increase in Salaries (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	90	(89)
Rate of Increase in Pensions (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	152	(150)
Rate for Discounting Scheme Liabilities (increase or decrease by 0.1%)	(230)	235

18.8 Contributions for the Accounting Period ending 31st March 2016

The Employer's regular contributions to the Fund for the accounting period ending 31st March 2016 are estimated to be £551k.

19.0 Retirement Benefits – Defined Contribution Scheme

Staff employed on Teachers terms and conditions are members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme. The scheme provides teachers with specified benefits upon their retirement, and the Joint Committee contributes towards the costs by making contributions based upon a percentage of members' pensionable salary.

The Scheme is technically a defined benefit scheme. However, the Scheme is unfunded and the Department for Education uses a notional fund as the basis for calculating the employers' contribution rate paid by local authorities. The Council is not able to identify its share of underlying financial position and performance of the Scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. For the purposes of this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a defined contribution scheme.

In 2014/15, the Joint Committee paid £77k to the Teachers' Pension Fund in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 14.1% of pensionable pay. There were no contributions remaining payable at the year-end.

20.0 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the reporting period are those both favourable and unfavourable that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

The financial statements are authorised for issue in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2005 (as amended). Regulations state the Statement of Accounts shall be authorised for

issue when certified by the Responsible Finance Officer. Certification of unaudited accounts takes place by 30th June following financial year-end.

Regulations require the audited Statement of Accounts to be published by 30th September. The published Statement of Accounts shall reflect events after the reporting period up to the date the accounts were authorised for issue. This is the date the Responsible Finance Officer re-certifies the accounts.

Two types of events can be identified;

- a) those that provide evidence of conditions existing at the end of the reporting period (adjusting events that shall be recognised in the financial statements),
- b) those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period (non-adjusting events that are not reflected in accounting statements but where material, disclosure is made in the Notes to the Core Financial Statements).

21.0 Reconciliation of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account to Cash flow

2013/14 £'000		2014/15 £'000
(94)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services	418
(12,325)	(Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	340
14,694	Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	(4,215)
1	Increase/(Decrease) in Inventories	(1)
(328)	IAS 19 Transactions	50
1,948	Cash (Inflow)/Outflow from Revenue Items	(3,408)

22.0 Officer's Remuneration

Under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2010, the Joint Committee must disclose in their accounts the number of employees whose remuneration in the year fell in each bracket of a scale in multiples of £5,000 commencing at £60,000 (excluding pension contributions). The disclosure includes redundancy payments.

During 2014/15, the Consortium paid 103 employees (121 in 2013/14) paying total salaries of £5,071,049.35 (excluding employer's national insurance and pension contributions) (£4,269,729.05 in 2013/14). Within this, the following salary payments were made within the categories specified:

Remuneration Band	2013/14	2014/15		
	No. of Employees	No. of Employees		
	Total	At 31/03/15	Left in Year	Total
£60,000 - £64,999	7	3	0	3
£65,000 - £69,999	0	0	1	1
£70,000 - £74,999	0	1	1	2
£75,000 - £79,999	2	0	0	0
£80,000 - £84,999	0	0	3	3
£85,000 - £89,999	0	0	1	1
£90,000 - £94,999	0	0	3	3
£95,000 - £99,999	0	0	0	0
£100,000 - £104,999	0	0	1	1
£105,000 - £109,999	0	0	1	1
Total	9	4	11	15

The following table sets out the remuneration for specific Senior Officers whose salary is less than £150k but greater than £60k. There are no Senior Officers whose salary is greater than £150k. Employer pension contributions are included.

Post Holder Information	2014/15				
	Salary £'000	Taxable Benefits in Kind £'000	Total Remuneration £'000	Total Employer's Pension Contributions £'000	Total Remuneration Including Employer's Pension Contributions £'000
Managing Director	82	0	82	10	92
Head of School Improvement	100	0	100	12	112
Interim Business Manager to 31/05/2014	76	0	76	1	77
Interim Business Manager from 01/09/2014	34	0	34	8	42
Senior Strategic Advisor	93	0	93	12	105

Managing Director was appointed in August 2014, before this date the post was filled by a consultant. Interim Business Manager was replaced during 2014/15 and the salary in the table above is inclusive of redundancy costs.

23.0 Severance Costs

Severance Cost Band	Number of Compulsory Terminations		Number of Other Terminations		Total Number of Terminations		Total Severance Cost	
							£000s	
	13/14	14/15	13/14	14/15	13/14	14/15	13/14	14/15
£0 - £20,000	0	0	1	2	1	2	6	24
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	0	6	0	6	0	183
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	97
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	0	5	0	5	0	333
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	82
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	473
£150,001 - £200,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	198
Total	0	0	1	21	1	21	6	1,390

24.0 Interest

Interest is paid daily on the personal account balance due to/from Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.

2013/14 £'000	2013/14 Interest rate %		2014/15 £'000	2014/15 Interest rate %
(1)	0.26	Interest on Personal Account Balance	2	0.26
(1)			2	

RHONDDA CYNON TAF**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM 2014/15
ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

1.	Scope of Responsibility
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1.1 The Central South Consortium is a Joint Education Service commissioned by five Local Authorities namely:

- Bridgend CBC
- Cardiff CC
- Merthyr Tydfil CBC
- Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
- Vale of Glamorgan CBC

The responsibilities of the Central South Consortium (CSC) combined, cover the needs of 410 schools and approximately 145,000 pupils in the region.

1.2 In January 2014, the Central South Wales Challenge was launched with the aim of raising standards across all schools within the Region. Also to stimulate the sharing of expertise amongst schools and joint efforts to innovate in order to;

- Improve the performance of every school;
- Increase the numbers of good and excellent schools;
- Reduce the gap between high and low performing groups of learners;
- and Improve outcomes for vulnerable groups of pupils.

1.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that its business and that of the Joint Committee, for which it has administrative responsibility, is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and is used economically, efficiently and effectively.

1.4 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the Central South Consortium have several policies and processes that are consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'.

1.5 This Annual Governance Statement explains how the Central South Consortium has complied with the various elements of the framework.

2.	The purpose of the governance framework
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- 2.1 The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and cultural values, by which an organisation is directed and controlled and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. It enables an organisation to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate, cost-effective services.
- 2.2 The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage the risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.
- 2.3 The system of internal control is an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and impact of those risks materialising, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.
- 2.4 The following paragraphs summarise the overall governance framework and the system of internal control, which has been in place for the Central South Consortium for the period covering 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015.

3.	The Governance Framework
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- 3.1 The CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework sets out six fundamental principles of corporate governance:-
- Focusing on the purpose of the Authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
 - Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.
 - Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
 - Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk.
 - Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective.
 - Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.
- 3.2 This Governance Statement has used these principles to demonstrate how the overall governance arrangements at the Central South Consortium for the period covering 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 are deemed to be satisfactory. The Governance Statement does not

document policies, procedures and working practices under each of the six principles, but instead provides an overview of the governance and internal control processes and systems.

3.3 Legal Agreement

On the 4th December 2013 all parties formally signed the two Legal Agreements (identified as the Central South Consortium's significant governance issue in the Annual Governance Statement 2012/13) meaning that the Legal Agreement was in place for the whole of 2014/15. There were no significant amendments to the Legal Agreement documents between the status of 'Interim' (accompanied by draft terms of references and governance principles) and 'Final'. On the basis of there being no significant amendments to the Interim Legal Agreement, from this point forwards in the Annual Governance Statement, reference will be made to the 'Legal Agreement'.

3.4 The Legal Agreement for the Joint Education Service provides the governance framework within which the Service operates and allocates responsibility and accountability, as follows:

- The Host Authority
- The Directors of Education
- The Advisory Board
- Operational Group
- Central South Consortium Joint Committee
- Financial Management

3.5 The Host Authority

The Legal Agreement formally assigns Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as the Host Authority for the Central South Consortium. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council provides all support services (save for the day to day administration undertaken by staff in accordance with their duties) required, including but not limited to:

- Financial (Section 151 Officer as defined by section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, Accounts, Payroll, Creditors, Debtors, Insurance)
- Human Resources
- Health & Safety
- Legal
- ICT
- Estates
- PR/Marketing
- Information Management
- Internal Audit
- Procurement

The costs of which are charged to the CSC Joint Education Committee through Service Level Agreements.

3.6 The Constitution of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, which has the financial stewardship of the Central South Consortium, allocates functions and responsibility within the Authority. It also regulates the behaviour of individuals (Members & Officers) and groups through codes of conduct, protocols and rules of procedures. All functions undertaken by the Central South Consortium should be done so in accordance with all relevant Policies and Procedure Rules of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

3.7 Member Conduct

Members of the Joint Education Committee are governed by the Code of Conduct of their relevant Council.

3.8 The Public Service Ombudsman and the relevant Council's Standards Committee investigate allegations of misconduct by Members and monitor the conduct of Members.

3.9 Officer Conduct

To ensure a consistent approach to working practices and processes, all officers are subject to the terms and conditions of employment (which are based on RCT operating terms and conditions) as follows:

1. Staff appointed to undertake responsibilities on behalf of the JES since October 2012, are employed / contracted on the standard terms and conditions of employment of the Host.
2. Staff appointed who were previously employed by any of the five partner local authorities prior to October 2012, were upon appointment transferred onto the standard terms and conditions of the Host or if matched to a role, given the option if they so wished to retain the terms and conditions of their home authority.

Regardless of which terms and conditions officers are employed upon, all officers are subject to a common set of operating Employment Policies based on the Host's operating policies and procedures.

3.10 **The Advisory Board**

The purpose of the Advisory Board is to support the Managing Director in ensuring that the strategies of the CSC align themselves with the needs of all Parties to raise educational standards.

3.11 The membership, decision making process, meetings and the terms of reference for the Advisory Board are documented within Schedule 2 of each Legal Agreement.

3.12 **Directors Steering Group**

The Directors Steering Group comprises the Directors of Education from each of the five local authorities comprising CSC. This group is

responsible for delegated decision making on behalf of each local authority

3.13 The membership, decision making process, meetings and the terms of reference for the Directors Steering Group are documented within Schedule 2 of each Legal Agreement.

3.14 **Joint Education Service:
Operational Management Group**

The Operational Group comprises the Head of School Improvement and each Parties respective Head of School Improvement and Senior Challenge Advisers. The objective of the group is to deliver school improvement activities with the aim of raising educational standards.

3.15 The membership, decision making process, meetings and the terms of reference for the Operational Group are documented within Schedule 3 of the Joint Education Service Legal Agreement.

3.16 **Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee**

The Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee (hereinafter called the 'Joint Education Committee') comprises of one elected Member from each Council and one officer representative with responsibility for Education from each Council.

The Joint Education Committee has the powers of each Council with reference to the provision of a Joint Education Service and its performance as set out in the Legal Agreement and guided by the Welsh Governments' 'National Model for Regional working'.

The purpose of the Joint Education Committee is to be responsible for the decision making, approval of the business plan, monitoring and accountability and financial reporting of the Central South Consortium arrangements in line with its own business plan.

The membership, decision making process, meetings and the terms of reference for the Joint Education Committee are documented within Schedule 4 of the Legal Agreement.

3.17 **Financial Management**

Schedule 5 of the Legal Agreement provides the framework within which the finances of the Joint Education Service operate. The Financial Protocol provides the financial framework and relationship between the Parties (the Councils), the Host and the Central South Consortium. The following areas of business are documented in each of the two Legal Agreements:

- General principles
- Contributions and charging mechanisms
- Payment arrangements
- Budgetary control & monitoring
- Capital Expenditure & long term contracts

- Annual Accounts & Audit
 - Financial insolvency
- 3.18 The Legal Agreement require the Joint Education Committee to hold at least termly meetings throughout the year. Standard agenda items include a report from the Treasurer.
- 3.19 The Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Financial Procedure Rules provide clear guidance in relation to all financial matters. The Central South Consortium has adopted Rhondda Cynon Taf's Financial & Contract Procedure Rules – as confirmed in Section 17 (Schedule 4) of the Legal Agreement:
- Rules and Procedure**
For the avoidance of doubt the CSC Joint Education Committee shall, where relevant and subject to the provisions of this Agreement, operate in accordance with the Hosts schemes of delegation, Rules of Procedure and policies from time to time.”
- 3.20 The Wales Audit Office audits the Central South Consortium's annual statement of accounts.
- 3.21 The Central South Consortium's financial and operational performance is monitored and scrutinised by the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee receives reports from:

- The Treasurer, and;
- The Managing Director.

In addition to these regular reports, the Joint Committee also receives ad-hoc reports relevant to the operation of the organisation.

Review of Effectiveness

- 4.1 The Central South Consortium has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of the effectiveness is informed by the work of Internal Audit and the Managing Director of the CSC who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control environment, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates. The requirement to undertake an annual review also extends to Joint Ventures where this CSC has lead responsibility.
- 4.2 **Report of the Managing Director**
Since the inception of the organisation the Managing Director (or designated representative) provided members of the Joint Education Committee with updates on performance and statistical information.
- 4.3 In addition to these 'standard' agenda items, issues specific to the operational running of the organisation were also reported to the Joint Education Committee.
- 4.4 In the Central South Consortium Business Plan May 2015 the Director reflected upon the performance and delivery of the service during 2014/15 and concluded that

Outcomes have improved across the region at every level, at every key stage and in every authority since 2012. In most instances this has been by more than the national average. There is a great deal more to be done to realise the full potential of children in the region. Our priorities to be delivered remain to:

- Close the gap in outcomes for children in poverty and for looked after children by a quarter by 2015-16 and a third by 2016-17
- Raise standards in English and Welsh first language and mathematics so that: nine out of every ten pupils reach expected outcome/level in the Foundation Phase and at key Stages 2 and 3 by July 2015; between a third and two-fifths of pupils reach the expected outcome/level 1 in the Foundation Phase and key stage 2 and over half stage 3 also by July 2015
- Raise standards in English by a further 12%, Welsh by 4% and mathematics by 8% by September 2015 compared with September 2014 to reach 77%, 79% and 68% respectively
- Improve outcomes at Level 2 + by at least a further 6% by September 2015 compared with September 2014 to exceed 60%
- Improve attendance by a further 0.9% in Secondary schools and by a further 0.5% in primary schools to reach 94.5% and 95.2% respectively by September 2015. Continue this trajectory so that the regions ambition of an average of at least 95% in both sections is achieved by September 2016.

4.5 Financial Management

During 2014/15 the Joint Education Committee received regular finance reports from the Treasurer.

4.6 During 2014/15 the role of the Chief Financial Officer at Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council was compliant with the principles of the CIPFA Statement – Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government 2010.

4.7 Joint Education Committee

During 2014/15 the Joint Committee received regular finance reports from the Treasurer and also regular performance reports from the Managing Director. The Joint Committee also received reports relevant to the operation and governance of the organisation.

4.8 In accordance with their terms of reference, the Joint Committee recruited a permanent Director during July 2014.

4.9 Internal Audit

During 2014/15 Internal Audit reviewed the core financial systems of the CSC Joint Education Service and concluded there to be no material weaknesses. Internal Audit also reviewed the reports provided to the Joint Education Committee and the Legal Agreement (which incorporates the Terms of Reference for the Executive Board, Operational Management Group, Board of Management and the Joint Education Committee).

4.10 External Audit

The 2013/14 statement of accounts were audited by the WAO and approved at the meeting of the Joint Committee on 25th September 2014.

Significant Governance Issues

- 5.1 **Definition of Governance:** A series of policies, roles, responsibilities and processes that set the way an organisation is directed, administrated and controlled.
- 5.2 **Definition of a Significant Governance Issue:**
A specific area of the Organisation's work that requires Senior Management attention to ensure that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner, to support improved outcomes for local people.
- 5.3 There were no significant governance issues raised during 2014/15.

Certification of Annual Governance Statement


Chair of Joint Committee


Managing Director of CSC

Section 151 Officer



Independent auditor's report to the Members of Central South Consortium Joint Education Committee

I have audited the accounting statements and related notes of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2015 under Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee accounting statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014-15 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)

Respective responsibilities of the responsible financial officer and the independent auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 7, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts for Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee, which gives a true and fair view.

My responsibility is to audit the accounting statements and related notes in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the accounting statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounting statements and related notes sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounting statements and related notes are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the responsible financial officer and the overall presentation of the accounting statements and related notes.

In addition, I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Explanatory Foreword to identify material inconsistencies with the audited accounting statements and related notes and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, I consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on the accounting statements of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee

In my opinion the accounting statements and related notes:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee as at 31 March 2015 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom in 2014-15.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, the information contained in the Explanatory Foreword is consistent with the accounting statements and related notes.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept;
- the accounting statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit;
- the Governance Statement contains material misstatements of fact or is inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice..



**For and on behalf of
Huw Vaughan Thomas
Auditor General for Wales
Wales Audit Office,
24 Cathedral Road,
Cardiff, CF11 9LJ**

29 September 2015

The maintenance and integrity of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council website is the responsibility of the Group Director Corporate and Frontline Services; the work carried out by auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and accordingly auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.