

<b>Risk Identifier</b>	CR-04
<b>Risk Title</b>	Annual Accounts

**Risk Description**

Because the council has 5 years of accounts that are not full audited, there is a risk that when the accounts are audited an increased amount of audit findings will be identified, resulting in increased workload and loss of reputation with residents, suppliers and customers. Also, because the audit staffing is so stretched in the industry, there is a risk that if the council's accounts are not in a desirable state by the deadline, the auditors will not audit us.

**Risk Owner**

Adrian Webb


**Directorate Responsible**

Finance & Corporate Services, Section 151 Officer

Original Risk		
Likelihood	Impact	Score
4	4	16

Residual Risk		
Likelihood	Impact	Score
3	4	12

**Risk direction**

Decreasing 

**Cabinet Member**

Councillor Hargreaves

Key Dates	
Date Registered	7th June 2024
Last update	4th October 2024

**Background**

The council needs to give confidence to residents, Government, suppliers and customers that it is a safe option with which to trade, partner and deliver services.  
 The audit market is struggling for staff.  
 The council has 3 sets of accounts to produce for September 2024.

**Service Area Affected**

All

**Triggers**

The council does not meet the auditor's deadline for draft Accounts of October 15th 2024 and they do not get audited because the council is de-prioritised.  
 The council does not do adequate checks in the accounts and the auditors qualify them.

**Risk Type**

Threat

**Risk Response Category**

Reduce

Risk Response	Risk Response Actionee	RAG Status	Progress Update	Next Scheduled Update
The council brought in an interim technical expert at the Deputy S. 151 level and another agency officer to help with getting the historic and current set of accounts completed.	Adrian Webb, Gareth Robinson	Green	The agency officer who was hired to support the statement of accounts is now likely to leave or reduce hours due to unforeseen circumstances and a hiring process to replace this role in a different fashion has started.	Nov-24
Asset Register is prioritised	Gareth Robinson	Amber	The asset register is receiving an overhaul and the 2021/22 has been corrected and rolled forward as has 2022/23 now. 2023/24 is now the new priority.	Nov-24
Internal members of staff to be trained on asset accounting and it to be completed quarterly from December 31st onwards.	Gareth Robinson	Red		Nov-24

Council is working with both BDO and KPMG to ensure the council meets the statutory deadlines of December 13th and Feb 28th 2025 respectively	Gareth Robinson	Amber	Additional resource brought in. Interim Audit almost complete and council has agreed a strategy to test the non-TB elements of the 2023/24 accounts before the accounts are produced to ensure that the council accounts are brought up-to-date.	Nov-24

Key for RAG status of risk response	
R	Control is not in place or working or progress has slipped
A	Control is not working efficiently and some challenges remain
G	Control is working or predominantly in hand or completed