

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE



Report subject	Statement of Accounts 2024/25
Meeting date	15 January 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The attached report set out the findings of the council's external auditor following their audit of the council's statement of accounts for 2024/25 as well as presenting the latest revised version of the statement of accounts. Grant Thornton anticipates providing an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for the council.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: (a) Note the anticipated audit opinion and findings of the council's external auditor included as Appendix 1 to this report, following the audit of accounts 2024/25; (b) Approves the current draft 2024/25 financial statement included at Appendix 3 (c) Approves the signing of the Statement of Responsibilities and the Letter of Representation by the Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee and the S151 Officer once the audit work is complete.
Reason for recommendations	To ensure that the Audit & Governance Committee are fully informed of the audit opinion and findings of the council's external auditor following their audit of the council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, as set out in the report attached.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Mike Cox, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Matthew Filmer, Assistant Chief Financial Officer
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. Under International Standards of Audit (UK) (ISAs) and the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), the external auditor is required to report whether, in their opinion, the group and council's financial statements:
 - a. gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the group and the council and their income and expenditure for the year; and
 - b. has been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting and prepared in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

Statement of Accounts

2. The Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 (see appendix 3) has been prepared in a format to comply with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (The Code) and reflect the 2024/25 revenue and capital outturn position which was reported to Cabinet on 16 July 2025.
3. Officers published the draft Statement of Accounts ahead of the 31 May deadline and Grant Thornton commenced their external audit as soon as.
4. The External Audit has almost been completed, and the Audit Findings Report is included at Appendix 1.

Summary of financial implications

5. There are no direct financial implications other than the audit fees set out in the audit findings report.

Summary of legal implications

6. There are no direct legal implications.

Summary of human resources implications

7. There are no direct human resources implications

Summary of sustainability impact

8. There are no direct sustainability impacts.

Summary of public health implications

9. There are no direct public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

10. There are no direct equality implications.

Summary of risk assessment

11. The areas identified for development by the Council's external auditors will be fully discussed during the risk management review process and appropriate mitigations will be discussed with Corporate Management Team.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Audit Findings Report 2024/25

Appendix 2 – Letter of Representation 2024/25

Appendix 3 – Draft Statement of Accounts 2024/25