

Meeting:	Audit & Governance Committee
Meeting date:	22/07/2026
Report of:	Director of Finance (S151 Officer)
Portfolio of:	Councillor Lomas, Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion

Audit and Governance Committee Report: **Statement of Accounts 2025/26**

Subject of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present for information the draft 2025/26 Statement of Accounts before they are audited.

Policy Basis

2. The production of the Council's statement of accounts results from all of the council's business processes and helps support the administration's key commitments and priorities as outlined in the Council Plan 2023-2027.

Recommendation and Reasons

3. Audit & Governance Committee note the draft pre-audit statement of accounts, for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

Reason: To ensure that, in line with best practice, Members have had the opportunity to review the draft pre-audit Statement of Accounts.

Background

4. The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) requires Local Authorities to publish draft Accounts by 30th June. The Council met this deadline and published our draft Accounts on 30th June, and they were available for inspection from 1st July.
5. The Council has to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts and present them to Audit & Governance Committee. Members are not being asked, at this stage, to approve these draft pre-audit accounts. The Director of Finance has signed the draft accounts, and the audited accounts will be brought back to this Committee later in the year for approval on behalf of the Council.
6. Following the authorisation of the Director of Finance, the accounts are available for public inspection for a period of 30 working days from 1st July until 11th August. During this period local government electors for the area are able to exercise their rights to question the auditor about the accounts. At the time of writing, 42 questions about the accounts had been received from 2 local residents.
7. Forvis Mazars are the Council's external auditors and they expect to start fieldwork in October 2026 and issue a report and opinion by January 2027.
8. The pre-audit Statement of Accounts 2025/26 has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK and is produced in line with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) which are the accounting standards used across the world making Local Authorities' Accounts more comparable with the private sector and worldwide.
9. The first section of the accounts (the Narrative Report) explains the main information included in the accounts, gives an overview of the Council and provides further information about the most significant matters reported in the accounts, along with an analysis of the pressures and risks that may impact on future financial performance.
10. From 1 April 2025 the Code of Practice requirements have changed in respect of revaluations of property, plant and equipment. The Council is now required to revalue assets on a five year rolling programme with annual indexation applied during the intervening

four years. Due to a delay in the Fixed Asset Register system being updated to allow for this change, the indexation figures in the accounts have been calculated manually and may need revising once the system has been updated.

11. The accounts also include the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS), following the annual review of the governance framework and processes. Any significant control issues are identified within the AGS.

Conclusion

12. The production and publication of the statement of accounts is a statutory requirement that provides members and interested parties with the chance to see the full financial position of the Council.
13. Bringing the statement of accounts to audit & governance provides an opportunity for Member led debate and compliance with defined best practice. It is an important part of member involvement in corporate governance that scrutiny is undertaken of the Council's accounts.

Contact details

For further information please contact the authors of this Report.

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Report approved:	Yes
Date:	10/07/2026

Annexes

A – Explanation of core statements

B – Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26

Abbreviations used in this report:

IFRS – International Financial Reporting Standards

CIPFA – Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

IAS - International Accounting Standard

AGS – Annual Governance [Statement](#)