

Report to: Audit and Accounts Committee Meeting: 8 July 2026
 Director Lead: Nick Wilson, Director Financial Services, Revenues & Benefits and S151
 Lead Officer: Andrew Snape, Head of Financial Services ext. 5523

Report Summary	
Report Title	Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2025/26
Purpose of Report	For members of the committee to review the Council’s draft Statutory Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.
Recommendations	(a) Members note the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ended 31 March 2026; and (b) Members note the draft Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2026 and agree to them being submitted to the external auditor (Mazars) for audit and certification;
Reason for Recommendation	To allow Members to consider the Council’s draft Statutory Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2026.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (Amended by 2024/907) require that the authority must prepare and publish its approved draft and audited Statement of Accounts by 30 June and 31 January respectively. The Regulations only require the Section 151 Officer to sign and certify that the unaudited Statement of Accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council. However, in the interests of transparency and good governance, these are still being presented to this committee in order to give the members of the committee a chance to review the contents rather than first inspection being when the audited Statement of Accounts need approving.
- 1.2 The Council published the unaudited Statement of Accounts on their website prior to the deadline of 30 June 2026.
- 1.3 The contents of the accounts are largely determined by statutory requirements and mandatory professional standards as set out within the ‘Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting’ and ‘Standard of Professional Practice on Financial Reporting’ published by the

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The CIPFA Code of Practice is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

2.0 Audit of the Accounts

2.1 The Council's external auditors, Mazars, have already commenced with the audit of the accounts. On completion there is a requirement that the external auditor provides details of all the errors within the financial statement. This report is the Audit Completion report and will be brought to this committee in December along with the final audited Statement of Accounts for approval.

3.0 Annual Governance Statement

3.1 The Audit and Account Regulations 2015 require the Council to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control. Having considered the findings of the review members are then required to approve an Annual Governance Statement, prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control. The Annual Governance Statement has been reviewed and updated for 2025/2026 and the draft version is included in the unaudited Statement of Accounts.

4.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	NA	Equality & Diversity	NA
Human Resources	NA	Human Rights	NA
Legal	NA	Data Protection	NA
Digital & Cyber Security	NA	Safeguarding	NA
Sustainability	NA	Crime & Disorder	NA
LGR	NA	Tenant Consultation	NA

Background Papers and Published Documents

Nil.