

Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/2026	
Executive Summary	The draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26 are being brought before the Governance, Risk and Audit Committee for consideration. No formal options or recommendations are presented as part of this report.
Options considered	No formal options are presented. The report is for the Committee's consideration of the draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26.
Consultation(s)	Section 151 Officer
Recommendations	No formal recommendation is made. The Committee is asked to consider the draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26.
Reasons for recommendations	The Statement of Accounts are brought before the Committee to support member oversight and transparency in respect of the Council's financial reporting.
Background papers	Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26.

Wards affected	None
Cabinet member(s)	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Estates & Property Services
Contact Officer	Daniel King, Assistant Director Finance & Assets

Links to key documents:	
Corporate Plan:	A strong, responsible and accountable Council
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	Linked to the MTFS through the requirement for robust financial governance and statutory financial reporting.
Council Policies & Strategies	Local Code of Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance:	
Is this a key decision	No
Has the public interest test been applied	N/A
Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	None.

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1.** To present the draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26 to the Governance, Risk and Audit Committee for consideration.

2. Introduction & Background.

- 2.1.** The Statement of Accounts sets out the Council's financial performance and position for the year ended 31 March 2026 and is prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. The draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26 are being brought before the Committee for consideration.

3. Proposals and Options

- 3.1.** The Committee is asked to consider the draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26. No formal options or recommendations are presented as part of this report.

4. Corporate Priorities

- 4.1.** Consideration of the Statement of Accounts supports the Council's Corporate Plan priority of being a strong, responsible and accountable Council, and contributes to effective financial management and transparency.

5. Financial and Resource Implications

- 5.1.** None immediately as a result of the Committee's consideration of the draft Statement of Accounts.

Comments from the S151 Officer:

The draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26 have been prepared in accordance with the relevant statutory requirements and the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. They are presented to the Committee for consideration and remain subject to the statutory audit process.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1.** No legal implications arise directly from the Committee's consideration of the draft Statement of Accounts.

Comments from the Monitoring Officer

There are no direct legal implications arising from the Committee's consideration of the draft Statement of Accounts. The accounts remain subject to the statutory audit and approval process.

7. Risks

7.1. Consideration of the draft Statement of Accounts supports transparency and accountability. The accounts remain subject to the statutory audit and approval process.

8. Net Zero Target

8.1. The consideration of the draft Statement of Accounts is a statutory governance and reporting matter and has no direct impact on the Council's Net Zero 2030 Strategy or Climate Action Plan.

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

9.1. The consideration of the draft Statement of Accounts is a statutory governance and reporting matter and does not give rise to any direct equality, diversity or inclusion impacts. The Council has had due regard to its duties under the Equality Act 2010. An equality impact assessment is not required.

10. Community Safety issues

10.1. The consideration of the draft Statement of Accounts has no direct impact on community safety.

11. Conclusion

The draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26 are presented to the Committee for consideration. No formal recommendation is made at this stage.