

Accounting Policies 2023/24

Report of the Head of Finance and Revenues

Recommended:

That the Accounting Policies, attached as the Annex to the Statement of Accounts 2023/24, be approved.

SUMMARY:

- The Council is required to prepare an Annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper accounting practices.
- The Accounting Policies set out the basis of the figures in the Statement of Accounts and discloses policies that are significant and relevant to the Council.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is required to produce and approve an Annual Statement of Accounts for each financial year (by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015) in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices are set out in the Accounting Policies, which explain the basis of the figures in the Statement of Accounts and discloses policies that are significant and relevant to the Council.
- 1.2 The Accounting Policies are presented for the Audit Committee's consideration.

2 Accounting Policies

- 2.1 The Accounting Policies presented for 2023/24 are without change from those applied in 2022/23.
- 2.2 The policies are in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2023/24 supported by the International Financial Reporting Standards and statutory guidance.

3 Options

- 3.1 The options are whether to approve the Accounting Policies or whether to make amendments to them before they are approved.

4 Options Appraisal

- 4.1 The Accounting Policies that are included in the annex to the report have been prepared in accordance with the guidance received from CIPFA and based on the knowledge and experience of the accounting team responsible for the preparation of the annual statement of accounts.
- 4.2 They are also consistent with the policies that have been used in previous years and always accepted as reasonable by the Council's external auditors.
- 4.3 Any proposed changes to the Accounting Policies may impact on the consistency of the figures shown in the accounts between financial years and move away from generally accepted accounting principles.
- 4.4 For these reasons, it is recommended that the Accounting Policies, shown in the annex to the report, be approved.

5 Risk Management

- 5.1 An evaluation of the risks associated with the matters in this report indicate that further risk assessment is not needed because the issues covered do not represent significant risks.

6 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 6.1 The Accounting Policies form the basis of the figures in the Statement of Accounts.
- 6.2 The reason for the recommendation is to comply with the Audit Committee's responsibility to approve the Accounting Policies and subsequently produced Statement of Accounts each year.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1		
Author:	Jenni Carter	Ext:	8236
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Report to:	Audit Committee	Date:	18 March 2024