



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Governance and Audit Committee

13 March 2024

Councillor Ashley Baxter
Leader of the Council,
Cabinet Member for Finance and
Economic Development

2023/24 Accounting Policies and Publication Date of the Statement of Accounts

Report Author

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Purpose of Report

In line with the Committee's terms of reference, the Council's Accounting Policies are reviewed annually, prior to the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, to ensure that they are up to date and in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (The Code).

Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Approves the Statement of Accounting Policies, as set out at Appendix A to this report, to be used in the production of the 2023/24 Financial Statements.**
- 2. Notes the dates for the publication of the draft and final audited Financial Statements.**

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Effective council
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 Prior to the compilation of the Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 it is important that members of Governance and Audit Committee have the opportunity to discuss and comment on the accounting policies to be used in the production of the financial statements. These policies, if agreed, will be applied to the treatment of all transactions that make up the figures in the Statement of Accounts. This will ensure the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council at the balance sheet date and of its income and expenditure for the financial year.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 Local authorities are required by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to prepare a Statement of Accounts in accordance with relevant regulations. The policies referred to are a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. Any updates and amendments should be reported to Governance and Audit Committee in accordance with its role to approve the Statement of Accounting Policies.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 As part of its Statement of Accounts, the Council needs to disclose the accounting policies it has applied to all material balances and transactions. These are produced in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (The Code).
- 2.2 It is good practice to consider and adopt the accounting policies in advance of the production and approval of draft accounts. Consequently all accounting policies have been reviewed for the 2023/24 financial year to ensure that they comply with The Code. The 2023/24 CIPFA Code has only minor changes compared to 2022/23, none of which are judged material in relation to the Council's Statement of

Accounts and so no amendments have been deemed necessary to the 2022/23 policies. Appendix A details the accounting policies to be applied in the preparation of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.

- 2.3 The following table details the publication dates for the draft and audited 2023/24 Statement of Accounts subject to government consultation.

	Publication date of 2023/24 Statement of Accounts
Draft Statement of Accounts	31 May 2024
Audited Statement of Accounts	30 September 2024

- 2.4 During the year-end process there may be changes required to the policies arising from changes in circumstances or updated guidance. These will be agreed with the Section 151 Officer and reported to Governance and Audit Committee alongside the final Statement of Accounts.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 The accounting policies have been produced in accordance with The Code which the Council is required to comply with when producing the Statement of Accounts

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 No other options are available as the Council is required to comply with The Code.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 As part of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 Local Authorities are required to include Accounting Policies in the Statement of Accounts.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 Appendix A – 2023/24 Accounting Policies