



Wednesday, 19 March 2025

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

2024/25 Accounting Policies and Publication Date of the Statement of Accounts

Report Author

David Scott, Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer

david.scott@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

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

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the Statement of Accounting Policies to be used in the production of the 2024/25 Financial Statements (Appendix A).
2. Note the publication dates for 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Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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

Prior to the compilation of the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 it is important that members of Governance and Audit Committee have the opportunity to 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 the Income and Expenditure for the 2024/25 financial year.

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

Legal and Governance

- 1.1 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: *Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer*

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Council is required to disclose its accounting policies applied to all material balances and transactions within its Statement of Accounts. These are produced in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (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 2024/25 financial year to ensure they comply with The Code.

- 2.3. The 2024/25 CIPFA Code requires the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 16 Leases. The accounting for lessors remains largely unchanged; however, where the Council is a lessee, the accounting treatment will differ. All leases (except those of less than 12 months duration or deemed to be of low value) will be accounted for as right of use assets with a corresponding lease liability through the balance sheet rather than an expense within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- 2.4. No other significant changes are required.
- 2.5. Appendix A details the accounting policies to be applied in the preparation of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.
- 2.6. The following table details the publication dates for the draft and final audited 2024/25 Statement of Accounts subject to government consultation.

	Publication date of 2024/25 Statement of Accounts
Draft Statement of Accounts	30 June 2025
Audited Statement of Accounts	27 February 2026

- 2.7. During the year-end process, changes may be 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 with which the Council is required to comply 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 – 2024/25 Statement of Accounting Policies.