

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 11 MARCH 2026



Title of Report	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 AND 2024/25	
Presented by	Paul Stone Strategic Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)	
Background Papers	None.	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.	
	Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	Regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires the Council to ensure that this Committee considers the Statement of Accounts, that it approves the Statement of Accounts and that the Statement of Accounts are signed by the person presiding as chair of the meeting that considers and approves them. It is necessary for the Committee to reconvene to approve the Statement of Accounts again, given that they were not signed by the chair following approval at the previous meeting of this Committee. Having missed the backstop date, the Council is legally required to publish its Statement of Accounts as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter. The Council must comply with Regulation 9 before the Statement of Accounts can be published.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no staffing or corporate implications as a direct result of this report.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	For the Committee to consider and approve the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 and 2024/25.	
Recommendations	<p>THAT THE COMMITTEE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APPROVES THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 AND 2024/25 AS SET OUT IN APPENDIX 1 AND 2 2. AUTHORISES THE CHAIR OF THIS COMMITTEE MEETING TO SIGN THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2023/24 AND 2024/25 	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 26 February 2026, the Audit and Governance Committee met to consider the reports relating to the Statement of Accounts for the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Committee reviewed the documents in detail and formally approved the accounts during that meeting. In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the approved Statement of Accounts must be signed by both the Section 151 Officer and the chair of the committee approving the accounts.
- 1.2 Following the meeting, the Chair expressed reluctance to sign the accounts, which resulted in the Council failing to meet the statutory backstop date for the Statement of Accounts 2024/25. Under backstop legislation, the Council is required to publish the reasons for not meeting the deadline on its website, and the Section 151 Officer must write to the Secretary of State. This was sent on 27 February 2026.
- 1.3 The Committee must now be reconvened, with its first order of business being the appointment of a new chair. This step is necessary to ensure that, should the accounts be approved, they can be signed in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations. The accounts can then be signed by the chair of this committee meeting approving the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 1.4 Copies of the Statements of Accounts 2023/24 and 2024/25 reports that were presented at the Committee meeting on 26 February 2026 are included in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
- 1.5 The Statement of Responsibilities is a formal section within the Statement of Accounts that sets out the respective duties of the Council and its responsible officers regarding the preparation and approval of the financial statements. Typically, it outlines the Council's responsibility for ensuring that proper accounting records are kept and that the accounts present a true and fair view of the Council's financial position. It also specifies the obligations of the Section 151 Officer (the Council's Chief Financial Officer) to prepare the accounts in accordance with relevant legislation and accounting standards. In this instance, the Statement of Responsibilities has been revised to clarify that the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee is required to sign the accounts following their approval by the Committee. These are shown at Appendices 3 and 4. These updates have been incorporated into the version of the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 and 2024/25 that will be signed by the Chair of this committee, subject to the accounts being approved.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	A Well-Run Council
Policy Considerations:	None.
Safeguarding:	None.
Equalities/Diversity:	None.
Customer Impact:	None.
Economic and Social Impact:	None.

Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon	None.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	Statutory Consultation took place between 22 September and 5 November 2025 in respect of the Statement of Accounts 2023/24 and 15 January 2026 to 26 February 2026 in respect of the Statement of Accounts 2024/25.
Risks:	Complying with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice - Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ("the Code") minimises the risk that the accounts do not 'present a true and fair view' of the financial position of the Council.
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