

**DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF ASSERTIONS MADE IN THE
STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

This statement is given in respect of the Statement of Accounts 2023/24.

I acknowledge my responsibility for preparation of the Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24; and that the Accounts present a “true and fair view” of the financial position of the Council and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023.

In doing so, the following have been done:

- A detailed closedown timetable was prepared and approved by the Corporate Management Team, and communicated to all Services.
- Detailed Year-End Service Guidance Notes were prepared and issued to all Services.
- Recommendations made by our external auditors following the audit of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts have been reviewed and actioned where appropriate.
- Reconciliations have been carried out between the Council’s financial ledger (Integra) and the Revenues & Benefits system (NEC).
- The trial balance has been balanced.
- The total for each accountant as per the trial balance has been agreed to the net total as per the ledger control sheets.
- The Total Service Expenditure as per the General Fund has been agreed to the movement in the General Fund on the Integra General Ledger.
- The non-current assets entries in the Balance Sheet are in line with valuations and other known transactions.
- The entries within the Collection Fund have been agreed with other financial statements in the Statement of Accounts and the Council Tax set by the Council on 20 February 2024 and other major precepting authorities.
- The total expenditure chargeable to the general fund and reserve balances shown in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis agrees to the net increase/decrease in general fund and reserve balances shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

- The total comprehensive income and expenditure for the year as shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement has been agreed to the Total Reserves movement reflected in the Balance Sheet.
- The movement in cash and cash equivalents as per the Cash Flow Statement has been agreed with the movement in the cash and cash equivalents balances as per the Balance Sheet.
- In preparing these Accounts due regard has been taken of the CIPFA Bulletin 17: Closure of the 2023/24 Financial Statements.

Signed:

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Director of Finance and Transformation.

Dated: 31 May 2024

S.J. Shelton, FCPFA
Director of Finance and Transformation