

Cabinet Member

Cllr Matt Boughton – Leader

Cllr Martin Coffin – Cabinet Member for Finance,
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Responsible Officer

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Accounting Policies

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

1.1 This report presents the Accounting Policies proposed for the 2025/26 Financial Statements for consideration and endorsement.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.

2.2 The Accounting Statement form part of the assessment of the Council's finances in order to maintain efficient and effective services. The accounting policies underpin the preparation and presentation of these accounts.

3 Recommendations

3.1 Members are asked to consider and, subject to any required amendments, endorse the Accounting Policies to be used in the preparation of the 2025/26 Financial Statements as set out at **[Annex 1]**.

4 Introduction and Background

4.1 The Accounting Policies to be used in the preparation of the 2025/26 Financial Statements are attached at **[Annex 1]**.

5 Accounting Policies for the 2025/26 Statement

5.1 The Accounting Policies remain consistent with those applied in 2024/25. With a couple of minor amendments, as presented below.

5.2 Further to the HM Treasury's Thematic Review of Non-investment Asset Valuations for financial reporting, the CIPFA/LASAAC code has been updated. The revised Code requires all Authorities to apply annual indexation in intervening years for Property, Plant & Equipment assets that have not been subject to formal valuation during that period.

5.3 The Council currently undertakes valuations of each Asset Category on a five-year rolling basis. Historically, material assets were revalued in addition to this schedule to ensure valuations remained materially accurate.

5.4 The Accounting Policies may be expanded following this meeting to specify the indices to be applied once a valuer has been appointed after the tender process.

5.5 The only other amendment to the Accounting Policies for 2025/26 relates to insurance charges. These will now be fully recognised in the year of payment, rather than accrued across financial years. This change will significantly reduce officer time without having a material impact on the financial statements.

5.6 This latest review found that no other changes were required to the Accounting Policies to be adopted for the 2025/26 Financial Statements.

6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

6.1 As set out in the Accounting Policies.

7 Risk Assessment

7.1 Failure to adequately follow Accounting Policies could result in misrepresentation and potential qualification of the Accounts.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 The Accounts are to be prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting of which the Accounting Policies form an integral part.

9 Cross Cutting Issues

9.1 Equalities and Diversity

9.1.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Background Papers	None
Annexes	Annex 1 - Accounting Policies 2025/26