



REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Purpose of the Report

1. To allow the Audit Committee to review and approve the proposed accounting policies used in creating the Authority's Statement of Accounts for 2014/15.

Information and Advice

2. The Statement of Accounts includes a section explaining the accounting policies used in producing the main statements for the benefit of the reader. Both the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and our External Auditors indicate that these policies should be reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee prior to inclusion in the final Statement of Accounts.
3. As well as updating the various dates in the policies there are two changes to those approved last year. The Authority is required to make these changes to the Accounting Policies in order to comply with amendments made to the CIPFA Code of Practice 2014/15.
4. Changes to the 2014/15 Code of Practice requires consideration of how the new interpretation of The Code impacts upon each school type in relation to its Plant, Property and Equipment. Policy 8 – 'Property, Plant and Equipment' has been amended to reflect the County Council's proposed approach to this issue. This approach is still to be agreed with external auditors. The main changes are as follows:
 - a. Foundation schools are proposed to be classed as on-Balance Sheet
 - b. Voluntary Controlled schools are proposed to be classed as off-Balance Sheet.
5. There is an update to Policy 25 – 'Carbon Reduction Scheme' as the scheme enters into the first year of its second phase.
6. The proposed accounting policies are attached to the report.

Other Options Considered

7. This report is for the approval of statutory required accounting policies.

Reason/s for Recommendations

8. It is considered good practice to have the Authority's accounting policies approved each year. In addition, the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom requires changes to the Authority's accounting policies to be approved.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Members approve the changes to the Authority's accounting policies.

Nigel Stevenson
Service Director – Finance & Procurement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (HD 11/03/2015)

10. Audit Committee is the appropriate body of the Council to consider the report.

Financial Comments (GB 10/03/2015)

11. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Code of Practice on Local Accounting in the United Kingdom 2014/15

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- Not applicable