

3 May 2023

Agenda Item: 7

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR – FINANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND
IMPROVEMENT**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022/23 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Purpose of the Report

1. To allow Members to review and approve the proposed accounting policies used in creating the Authority's Statement of Accounts for 2022/23.

Information

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 (The Code) and our External Auditors indicate that these policies should be reviewed and approved by the Governance and Ethics Committee prior to inclusion in the final Statement of Accounts.
3. Other than updating various dates in the 2022/23 Accounting Policies only one change has been made from the 2021/22 Accounting Policies. As a result of the change in accounting treatment of infrastructure assets and a review of our fully depreciated assets the useful lives of both infrastructure and IT and other equipment have been amended as follows:-

Asset Type	Useful Life (In Years)
Buildings	1 – 50
Vehicles and plant	1 – 20
Infrastructure	15 – 40
IT and other equipment	3 – 10
Intangibles	3 – 5
Furniture and Fittings	5 – 15

4. The proposed 2022/23 accounting policies can be seen in Appendix A.

Other Options Considered

5. The other option considered would be to not report the accounting policies 2022/23 but best practice indicates that these policies should be reviewed and approved by Governance and Ethics Committee prior to their inclusion in the Authority's statutory financial statements and this is why this option was rejected.

Reason/s for Recommendations

6. 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

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment 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 Authority's 2022/23 accounting policies.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director – Finance, Infrastructure and Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Glen Bicknell, Senior Accountant, Financial Strategy and Compliance

Constitutional Comments (KK 20/04/2023)

8. Governance and Ethics Committee is the appropriate body of the Council to consider the report.

Financial Comments (GB 19/04/2023)

9. 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 2021/22

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All