

Audit Committee - 15 April 2013

Accounting Policies 2012/13

Summary of report

This report sets out the accounting policies for 2012/13 for approval by Audit Committee.

Signing off the accounting policies prior to completion of the statement of accounts is seen as good practice and this also provides guidance for reviewing the statement of accounts.

The statement of accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2012/13 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2013. The Authority is required to prepare an annual statement of accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011. Those regulations require the statement of accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2012/13, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Recommendations:

1. To approve the use of the attached accounting policies for financial year 2012/13



James Walsh
Chief Finance Officer

22 March 2013

Governance

The accounting policies for 2012/13 (**Appendix 1**) have been reviewed against the Code of Practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13 and relevant accounting standards.

Changes in accounting policies

There are no changes to the accounting policies or major estimation techniques for 2012/13 compared to 2011/12, however we seek approval from Audit Committee for the use of these accounting policies.

Resource and Legal Considerations

The council must produce annual accounts in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, in a timely fashion on an annual basis. The Code of Practice is updated on an annual basis.

Risk Management

Failure to correctly and fully apply approved accounting policies could result in audit requiring amendments to the accounts or even qualification of the accounts.

Equality implications

The accounting policies are part of the publication of the statement of accounts for the relevant year. The statement of accounts is available on the council's website.

Consultation

The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted and has approved these policies. No community consultation activity is required for the accounting policies. However, as part of consultation regarding the presentation of financial information, residents have the opportunity to comment when reviewing the statement of accounts.

Background Papers

Code of Practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13

Audit and Accounts Regulations 2011

IAS8 (International Accounting Standard) Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

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