

By: Deputy Leader, Brian Collins
Interim Corporate Director Finance, John Betts

To: Governance and Audit Committee, 30 October 2025

Subject: Draft Statement of Accounts & Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

Status: Unrestricted

Summary: This paper covers items 6, 7 and 8 on the agenda. These items need to be considered together, as the Governance & Audit Committee need to approve the Statement of Accounts, Letters of Representation and Annual Governance Statement at the same meeting to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

1) Introduction

- a) The draft Statement of Accounts of the County Council for 2024/25 follows this report. The Accounts and Audit Regulations state that:
 - ... the publication date for final, audited accounts is by 27 February 2026. The authority must, following the conclusion of the period of public inspection, in the following order:
 - i) consider, either by way of a Committee or by the Members meeting as a whole, the Statement of Accounts;
 - ii) approve the Statement of Accounts by a resolution of that Committee or meeting;
 - iii) ensure that the Statement of Accounts is signed and dated by the person presiding at the Committee or meeting at which that approval was given.
- b) It is recommended that the Statement of Accounts are finalised and signed by the Committee Chair today on the basis that the audit work is substantially completed.
- c) The draft Statement of Accounts attached to this report reflect changes identified as part of the audit process.
- d) The accounts are the result of the work undertaken as part of the closedown cycle and in collaboration with our external auditors. Responses to approximately 400 queries in relation to our technical accounting and sample evidence for approaching 600 requests have been provided as part of this process.

- e) Member training on the Statement of Accounts and external audit process was delivered on Thursday 16 October by the Chief Accountant's Team and Grant Thornton.
- f) The Audit Finding Report (AFR) from Grant Thornton is a positive outcome for the Council. The signing of the accounts at this stage of the financial year will allow planning time to implement the audit recommendations in the AFR ahead of the completion of the 2025/26 accounts.
- g) The draft accounts were published on kent.gov.uk on 30 June 2025 in line with the deadline set by the Accounts & Audit Regulations. The public inspection of accounts window began on 1 July and closed on 11 August 2025.
- h) Letters of Representation are provided in connection with the audits of the financial statements for the Council and the Kent Pension Fund; and they will be required to be formally minuted by the Committee to confirm they are approved, and signed by the Chair of the Committee and Interim Corporate Director of Finance.
- i) The overall Statement of Accounts document includes KCC's single entity accounts, group accounts and the Kent Pension Fund's Accounts. The Kent Pension Fund Accounts were discussed and agreed at the previous Governance & Audit Committee meeting on 24 September 2025 and are available [here](#).

3) Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2024/25
- Consider and approve the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25
- Approve the Letters of Representation for Kent County Council and the Kent Pension Fund
- Note the Audit Findings Report (AFR) for Kent County Council and the Kent Pension Fund

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