

Report Title	Statement of Accounts 2024/25
Meeting	Accounts and Audit Committee
Meeting Date	27 th January 2026
Report Author	Karen Spencer
Directorate	Resources
Lead Executive Member(s)	Cllr David Whipp
Wards Affected	All
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	Appendix A – Statement of Accounts 2024/25

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present for approval the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25. At the time of writing this report the audit undertaken by Grant Thornton, the Council's External Auditor, is substantially complete. The accounts submitted with this report include any amendments arising from the work of External Audit as at 19th January 2026.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Audit and Accounts Committee is recommended to:

2.1 approve the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25, subject to final audit adjustments as necessary; and

2.2 Authorise the Chair of the Committee and the Section 151 Officer to sign the accounts on behalf of the Committee.

3. Information: the Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

3.1 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended), the Council is required to prepare a Statement of Accounts each financial year in accordance with proper practices and to publish these accounts for public inspection. The Council must also ensure the accounts are audited by its external auditors and subsequently approved at a public meeting, for Pendle this is the Accounts and Audit Committee.

3.2 Due to the ongoing local audit backlog across the sector, the Government introduced amended regulations in 2024 setting statutory *backstop dates* by which audited accounts must be published and approved.

3.3 The following statutory deadlines apply to the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts:

- Draft (unaudited) accounts publication: *on or before 30 June 2025* (statutory deadline).
- Public inspection period: 30 working days commencing immediately after publication of draft accounts, during which local electors may inspect the accounts and related documents.
- Statutory *backstop* date for audited accounts: *27 February 2026* — by which the audited Statement of Accounts, including the auditor's opinion, must be published.

3.4 The Council's unaudited accounts were completed and published on the Council's website on 30th June 2025. Grant Thornton commenced their on-site audit of the accounts week commencing 20th October 2025 and this work is nearing completion. The Statement of Accounts submitted with this report reflects all changes agreed with Grant Thornton as at 19th January 2026. Any new matters arising prior to the Committee will be reported verbally at the meeting.

3.5 Details of the formal audit findings are presented in a separate report from Grant Thornton (Draft Audit Finding Report 2024/25) which is included elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting.

3.6 The Audit Findings report highlights some areas of the accounts that have required adjustments, these have now been implemented. The Auditors have also made some recommendations as a result of issues they identified during the audit, to which Management have responded and will look to implement for 2025/26 accounts.

3.7 The period for public inspection of the accounts and supporting documents commenced from the 1st July 2025 and ended on the 11th August 2025. No questions or enquiries from members of the public were received during this period.

3.8 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (regulation 9(2)), the Council must, following the conclusion of the period for the exercise of public rights, in the following order:-

- (a) Consider, either by way of a committee or by the members meeting as a whole, the statement of accounts;
- (b) Approve the statement of accounts by a resolution of that committee meeting;
- (c) Ensure that the statement of accounts is signed and dated by the person presiding at the committee or meeting at which approval is given.

3.9 The Statement of Accounts is attached at **Appendix A** for approval. The Director of Resources (s151 Officer), as the Council's responsible finance

officer, has re-certified the accounts confirming that the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of:

- (a) The financial position of the authority at the end of the financial year to which it relates; and
- (b) The authority's income and expenditure for that financial year

- 3.10 The Statement of Accounts (SOAs) also includes the Annual Governance Statement and Narrative Report, both of which are required to be published together with the financial statements.
- 3.11 Once confirmation has been received from Grant Thornton that the audit has been completed, a 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit' will be published. This will explain that the audit of the Council's accounts has been completed and state where the accounts and auditor's report can be inspected.

4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (Providing High Quality Services and Facilities, Proud and Connected Communities and Places, Good Growth and Housing and Healthy Communities)

- 4.1 Providing High Quality Services and Facilities

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

None arising directly from this report.

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

The Accounts and Audit Regulation's 2015 (as amended) require the Council to approve and publish its 2024/25 audited Statement of Accounts by 27th February 2026. Approval of the accounts at this meeting will satisfy this requirement.

5.3 Climate and Biodiversity Implications

None arising directly from this report.

5.5 Human Resources Implications

None arising directly from this report.

5.6 Equality and Diversity Implications

None arising directly from this report.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 N/A

7. Alternative Options Considered

None

8. Statutory Officer Sign off (please put an x in the relevant box below)

Section 151 Officer	X
Monitoring Officer	X

9. Background Documents

None

Contact Officers

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