Report Title	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2025/26
Meeting	Accounts and Audit Committee
Meeting Date	28th July 2026
Report Author	Gemma-Louise Wells
Directorate	Resources
Lead Executive Member(s)	Finance Portfolio – Cllr M Hanif
Wards Affected	All
Public. Part Exempt, or Fully Exempt	Public
Appendices (if any)	Draft Statement of Accounts (as published on Council's website)

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides the Committee with an update in respect of the Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2025/26.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, the committee is recommended to:

2.1 Note the current progress made in respect of the production of the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2025/26 and the timetable going forward.

3. Information: The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

3.1 The Council is required to prepare a Statement of Accounts for each financial year. The accounts must be prepared in accordance with statutory timelines and accounting practices.

3.2 These accounting practices are set out in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK and any additional CIPFA guidance such as the year end Final Accounts Bulletins. Members of the Accounts and Audit Committee can be assured that the accounts have been prepared so that all the requirements of the Code have been complied with. The Committee received a report on the Code for 2020/21 at its meeting on 24th March 2026.

3.3 For 2025/26 year statutory publishing requirements and deadlines are as follows;

- Authorities must publish the dates of their public inspection period, providing a public notice on their websites on 30th June 2026.
- The draft statement of accounts must be published on the Council's website on 30th June 2026
- Statutory audit backstop date is 31st January 2027

3.4 The draft financial statements were submitted to the External Auditors, Grant Thornton, on 30th June 2026. The statements were also published on the Council's website.

3.5 Grant Thornton will undertake their audit and council officers will ensure that all queries are promptly addressed.

3.6 The Audit plan is set for the Committee to receive the Statement of Accounts for formal approval at its meeting on 24th November 2026 together with the Audit Findings Report produced by Grant Thornton.

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 The recommendations ensure the Council adheres to regulations and timetable as set out by MHCLG.

5.0 Implications

Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the contents of this report.

Legal and Governance Implications

5.2 Legal and Governance issues are dealt with throughout the report.

Climate and Biodiversity Implications

5.3 There are no climate of biodiversity implications arising from this report.

Human Resources Implications

5.4 There are no Human Resources implications arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

5.5 There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report.

6.0 Consultation

6.1 Consultation on the contents of this report is not required.

7.0 Alternative Options Considered

7.1 No alternative options are available.

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

Section 151 Officer	
Monitoring Officer	

9.0 Background Documents

9.1 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (As amended 2024)

10.0 Contact Officer

Gemma-Louise Wells, Head of Finance
gemma-louise.wells@pendle.gov.uk