

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Audit Committee on 25th September 2025

Statement of Accounts 2024/25

Report of the Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer

Classification	This report is public
Contact Officer	Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer Theresa Fletcher

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To update the Committee on the latest position regarding Local Audit Delays.

To present for the Committee's approval, the draft (unaudited) Statement of Accounts for 2024/25, circulated as **Appendix 1**.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

Local Audit Delays

- 1.1 Members may recall that the system of Local Authority financial statement audits is operating under a system of statutory backstop dates. The backstop dates are a nationwide measure to address the backlog of incomplete audits of financial statements across local government in England.
- 1.2 The dates have been introduced as a way to reset the system and assist a return to a regular process of timely audit and publication of financial statements. However, our financial statements have never been part of this backlog and only the latest years' financial statements are not yet audited.
- 1.3 The key dates are as follows:

Financial year	Statutory backstop date
2023/24	28 February 2025
2024/25	27 February 2026
2025/26	31 January 2027
2026/27	30 November 2027
2027/28	30 November 2028

- 1.4 The backstop date for the sign off of the 2023/24 financial statements was the 28th of February 2025. The Council received the Dragonfly audited financial statements from their auditors during February 2025.
- 1.5 The Council's auditors Forvis Mazars, 'were unable to complete the audit procedures necessary to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on which to base an opinion before the date the Council had to publish the financial statements for 2023/24.'
- 1.6 Therefore, Forvis Mazars gave a disclaimer of opinion on the Council's financial statements for 2023/24, which included group accounts for the first time, on the 21st of February 2025. We are working with the auditors to rebuild assurance over the Council's group financial statements.

2024/25 Outturn

- 1.7 The outturn position for the Council for 2024/25 was reported to Members at Executive during July, and at the Finance and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee in September due to the July meeting not being quorate.
- 1.8 In summary, there was a net under spend on general fund of £1.575m. This was made up of a net under spend of expenditure and the over achievement of income.
- 1.9 The position on the HRA was a net cost of services under spend of £0.853m, adjusting to £0.810m under spend after interest and depreciation were taken into account.

2024/25 Statement of Accounts

- 1.10 **Appendix 1** to this report is the Council's draft (unaudited) Statement of Accounts for 2024/25. The statutory deadline for publishing our draft accounts for 2024/25 was the 30th of June 2025, on the 19th of June we published the Council's draft 2024/25 Statement of Accounts on our website.
- 1.11 Our external auditors Forvis Mazars started our 2024/25 audit at the beginning of September. It is therefore possible that changes to the attached Statement of Accounts will be requested.
- 1.12 Given the possibility that issues raised may require the Statement of Accounts to be amended, it is recommended that delegated powers be given to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chair or Deputy Chair of this Committee to agree any final changes to the Council's Statement of Accounts 2024/25. It should be noted that the only changes made under these delegated powers will relate to amendments agreed with the Council's external auditors Forvis Mazars.

2. Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The external audit process for 2024/25 commenced at the beginning of September 2025. It is anticipated that the outcome of the audit will be reported to those charged with governance by the external auditor in the first months of 2026.

3 **Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

3.1 There are no alternative options for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Committee approves the Statement of Accounts in respect of 2024/25.
2. That delegated powers are granted to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chair or Deputy Chair of this Committee to agree any changes agreed with the Council's external auditors Forvis Mazars, which may be necessary to ensure the completion of the Statement of Accounts by 27th of February 2026.

Approved by Councillor Clive Moesby, Portfolio Holder for Resources

IMPLICATIONS.

Finance and Risk: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

The process has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations. It should be noted that the Council is required to complete and approve the audited Statement of Accounts by the end of July under normal circumstances, but the deadline has been extended as discussed within the report.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

Not applicable to this report.

Staffing: Yes ☐ No ☒

Details:

There are no human resource issues arising directly out of this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards, or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No

District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Details:

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, and Environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1	Bolsover District Council – Draft (unaudited) Statement of Accounts 2024/25

Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).
None