

## **East Herts Council Report**

### **Audit and Governance Committee**

**Date of meeting: Tuesday 24 February 2026**

**Report by:** Councillor Carl Brittain – Executive Member for Financial Sustainability

**Report title:** 2025/26 Accounting Policies

**Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);**

**Summary** – To seek approval for the accounting policies to be used as the basis for preparation of the 2025/26 Statement of Accounts.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

- a) That the accounting policies set out in Appendix A, be approved for use in the 2025/26 Statement of Accounts.

#### **1.0 Proposal(s)**

1.1 For the financial year 2025/26 the Council must publish its draft Statement of Accounts by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026. It is best practice for Audit and Governance Committee to consider the accounting policies ahead of the production and publication of accounts.

#### **2.0 Background**

2.1 The accounting policies adopted by the Council determine the accounting treatment that is applied to transactions during the financial year and in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts. The accounting policies are published within the Statement of Accounts document in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and incorporate the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

#### **3.0 Reason(s)**

3.1 Officers have assessed the accounting policies that are deemed necessary to explain clearly and underpin the accounting treatment of transactions within the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2025/26. In undertaking this assessment, a review of all accounting policies previously agreed has been undertaken to check their relevance, clarity, legislative compliance and that they are in compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (2025/26).

3.2 There are no changes introduced by the 2025/26 Code that require amendment to the Council's Accounting Policies, and they remain in substance the same as those used for the production of the 2024/25 financial statements. The accounting policies for 2025/26 are presented in Appendix A.

3.3 The approval of the accounting policies to be applied by the Council demonstrates that consideration is being given to which policies to adopt and apply and that those charged with governance are fully informed of the policies that are being adopted.

#### **4.0 Options**

4.1 The Council is required to have appropriate accounting policies within its Statement of Accounts. Officers have developed what they consider to be an appropriate set of policies based on those adopted in previous financial years after taking into account of changes as required by current legislation.

#### **5.0 Risks**

5.1 None of the policies outlined in Appendix A conflict with legislative or IFRS requirements, therefore the risk of adopting a policy that contravenes good practice is considered minimal.

#### **6.0 Implications/Consultations**

6.1

##### **Community Safety**

None arising directly from this report.

##### **Data Protection**

None arising directly from this report.

##### **Equalities**

None arising directly from this report.

##### **Environmental Sustainability**

None arising directly from this report.

##### **Financial**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Accounting policies will be used to determine the accounting treatment of the financial transactions of the Council for 2024/25.

### **Health and Safety**

None arising directly from this report.

### **Human Resources**

None arising directly from this report.

### **Human Rights**

None arising directly from this report.

### **Legal**

None arising directly from this report.

### **Specific Wards**

**7.0** None arising directly from this report.

## **8.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material**

7.1

Appendix A	Accounting Policies 2025/26
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### **Contact Member**

#### **Councillor Carl Brittain**

Executive Member for Financial Sustainability

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