

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Audit Committee

### Date: 27 March 2024

**Accounting Policies to be used in the compilation of 2023/24 Annual Statement of Accounts**

**Report from Service:** Finance

**Responsible officer:** David Mason, Head of Finance **Tel: 643 3293**

**Wards affected:** All

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#### **PART 1**

##### **1.1 Executive Summary:**

- 1.1.1 In the Annual Statement of Accounts, the Authority is required to disclose how the accounting statements have been prepared. The preparation of the statements should be in accordance with the accounting concepts and policies as per the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2023/24' (The Code).
- 1.1.2 Under the terms of reference of the Audit Committee, the Committee has the responsibility to review the Accounting Policies that will be used to compile the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide the Audit Committee with details of the proposed Accounting Policies that will be used in the compilation of the 2023/24 Annual Statement of Accounts.

##### **1.2 Recommendations:**

- 1.2.1 It is recommended that the Audit Committee endorse the Accounting Policies to be adopted by the Authority and used to compile the Authority's Annual Statement of Accounts for the financial year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

### **1.3 Council plan and policy framework.**

- 1.3.1 The Accounting Policies cover all the service responsibilities as identified within the Council Plan.

### **1.4 Information – Executive Summary**

- 1.4.1 The purpose of the Accounting Policies is to explain the basis for the recognition, measurement and disclosure of transactions and other events in the accounts of the Authority. The Code defines Accounting Policies as “the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an authority in preparing and presenting financial statements”. The Accounting Policies disclosed are those material policies that are significant to the understanding of the Authority’s Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 1.4.2 The Code requires that a change in Accounting Policies should only be made if the change:
- (a) is required by The Code; or
  - (b) will result in financial statements providing reliable and more relevant financial information about the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on an authority’s financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

Significant changes in Accounting Policies, other than those specified in The Code, will be relatively rare.

- 1.4.3 The proposed draft Accounting Policies for 2023/24 are attached as Appendix A.

### **1.5 Decision options:**

- 1.5.1 The Audit Committee can agree to endorse the recommendations as set out in Section 1.2 of this report. Alternatively, the Audit Committee can decline to endorse the proposals and require further details and amendment.

### **1.6 Reasons for recommended option:**

- 1.6.1 The Audit Committee is recommended to endorse the proposals set out in section 1.2 of this report as the production of the Accounting Policies is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

## **1.7 Appendices:**

- Appendix A Draft Accounting Policies
- Appendix B Glossary of Terms

## **1.8 Contact officers:**

Jon Ritchie, Director of Resources, Tel 643 5701  
David Mason, Head of Finance, Tel 643 3293  
Susan Borthwick – Principal Accountant – Tel 643 5732

## **1.9 Background information:**

1.9.1 The following background papers and research reports have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the offices of the author:

- (a) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2023/24.

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

2.1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **2.2 Legal**

2.2.1 The Authority has a duty to ensure that it produces a draft Annual Statement of Accounts by 31 May 2024 in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2015. Part of the approval process is the endorsement of the Accounting Policies by the Audit Committee.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

#### **Internal consultation**

2.3.1 Internal consultation has taken place with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Director of Resources, relevant Finance staff and the External Auditor.

## **2.4 Community engagement**

2.4.1 There are no community engagement implications arising from this report.

## **2.5 Human rights**

2.5.1 There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

## **2.6 Equalities and diversity**

2.6.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

## **2.7 Risk management**

2.7.1 There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

## **2.8 Crime and disorder**

2.8.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## **2.9 Environment and sustainability**

2.9.1 There are no environmental and sustainability implications arising from this report.