Report for:	Audit Committee 23rd July 2026
Item number:	8
Title:	Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26
Report authorised by:	Taryn Eves, Corporate Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer)
Lead Officers:	Kaycee Ikegwu, Chief Accountant - kaycee.ikegwu@haringey.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	N/A
Report for Key/ Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1. This report updates the Committee on the Council's Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1. Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

3.1. That the Committee notes the contents of this report, and the appended Draft Statement of Accounts.

4. Reason for Decision

4.1. None.

5. Other options considered.

5.1. None.

6. Background information

6.1. The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code) together with the Accounts and Audit Regulations set the accounting and statutory framework for local authority financial reporting.

6.2. The Code is based on internationally recognised accounting standards (International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). These form the basis for large private sector companies financial reporting.

6.3. However, the funding of Local Government by central government and local taxpayers is in some key aspects, very different from that under IFRS.

6.4. This makes local authority financial statements complex and difficult to interpret due to the need to reconcile the Council's financial performance and financial position under IFRS with that under the arrangements for funding local government.

6.5. The preparation and audit of the annual statement of accounts is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Statutory timescales are:

6.6. Previously, the draft statement of accounts needed to be prepared and certified by 31st May by the Section 151 Officer that they represent a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council.

6.7. Audit of the accounts should then be concluded by 31st July and audited accounts published by this date, or, if audits have not concluded audited accounts should be published as soon as possible after this date.

6.8. However, The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024, which came into force on 30th September 2024 introduced a new backstop date of January 31st, 2027, for the 2025/26 accounts.

6.9. It also requires the draft accounts to be published by the 30th of June 2026. These regulations were introduced approved in order to clear the national backlog of local authority audits.

6.10. In the production of the Councils accounts for 2025/26, the Council met the requirement for draft accounts to be published by 30th June 2026.

6.11. The 2025/26 draft statement of accounts highlights the Council performances and achievements during the year. General fund balances (including schools) were £52.3m as at the 31 March 2026 (£52.2m on 31 March 2025). The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) working balance was £15.9m as at the 31 March 2026 (£20.1m on 31 March 2025).

6.12. The Council maintained relatively the same level of General Fund balance as at the end of March 2025 because this was after the application of exceptional financial support funding of £40.6m in 2025/26. Further details of Council's revenue outturn are contained in narratives to the statement of accounts.

6.13. The Council's net asset increased by £41m in 2025/26. There was net increase of £136m and £68m in long-term assets and current assets respectively. These increased were partly negated by net increases of £151m and £12m in long-term liabilities and current liabilities respectively.

6.14. The narratives to the statement of accounts contains the financial performance highlights (pages 12-16) and the medium-term outlook of Haringey (pages 17).

6.15. It should be noted that the draft accounts are unaudited. Following the external audit process over the summer, there is a possibility that the draft figures may change. Full details of any amendments will be set out in the audit report and reflected in the final statement of accounts that will be published after the audit and presented to Audit Committee in January 2027.

6.16. The Public Inspection period will commence from 10am, Wednesday 1st July 2026. It will end at 4pm on Tuesday 11th August 2026. During this period any person(s) may request explanations/raise objections /inspect the accounts of the London Borough of Haringey for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Next Steps

6.17. Our external auditors, KPMG, will commence the audit of 2025/26 statement of accounts on 13th July 2026. On completion, the final accounts, the Audit findings and the Auditors Annual Report will be presented to the Audit Committee in January 2027.

7. Contribution to Strategic Outcomes

7.1. Not relevant.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

8.1. As this report details a financial subject matter, finance comments are made throughout the content of this report.

Director of Legal and Governance

8.2. This report has been prepared in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance.

8.3. The Draft Statement of Accounts has been produced in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 ("the 2015 Regulations"), which (among other things) governs the production, publication and exercise of public rights in relation to the statement of accounts. It is noted that the accounts are yet to be audited. The procedure governing publication and exercise of public rights in relation to the statement of accounts is contained in Parts 3 and 5 of the 2015 Regulations.

8.4. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 was introduced to address the backlog of local audits in England. It provides statutory backstop dates for the publication of audited accounts for the financial years 2023/24 to 2027/2028. These regulations also require a local authority that fails to comply with a backstop date, to publish an explanation, send a copy to the Secretary of State and publish audited accounts as soon as practicable.

8.5. In the Policy Paper published 4 March 2025, 'Addressing the local audit backlog in England: non-Compliance lists' the government confirmed its intention to publishing lists of bodies that do not comply the requirement to publish audited accounts by a backstop date.

Equalities

8.3. There are no equalities issues arising from this report.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Statement of Accounts 2025/26

10. Background Papers

10.1. Not applicable