

Report for: Audit Committee 23rd July 2026

Item number: 7

Title: External Audit Plan 2025/26

Report authorised by: Taryn Eves, Corporate Director of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer)

Lead Officers: Kaycee Ikegwu, Chief Accountant
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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 plan for the audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2025/26, which includes the Collection Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1. Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That the Committee notes the contents of this cover report, the draft audit plan, which also contains feedback on the progress of building back assurance (BBA) work and VFM update; including any further oral updates given at the meeting by our external auditors, KPMG LLP.

4. Reason for Decision

- 4.1. The Council is required to have its annual statement of accounts audited in line with current legislation and related regulations. The Committee has oversight of both internal and external audit, helping to ensure there are adequate arrangements in place for both internal challenge and public accountability. This report provides the Committee with details of the draft external audit plan.

5. Other options considered

5.1. This is a statutory requirement.

6. Background information

- 6.1. The content of the Statement of Accounts is largely determined by statutory requirements and mandatory professional standards as set out within the “Code of Practice on Financial Reporting” published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The CIPFA Code of Practice is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), however adopts these in some cases to tailor their application to Local Government Finance.
- 6.2. The preparation and audit of the 2025/26 statement of accounts is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024. The 2025/26 draft accounts must be prepared and certified by 30th June 2026 by the Section 151 Officer that they represent a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council.
- 6.3. Audits should then be concluded by the backstop date of January 31st, 2027, 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.
- 6.4. Haringey published its draft accounts for 2025/26 by the 30th June 2026, as required, and will be commencing the audit in July 2025 as detailed in the appended draft audit plan.
- 6.5. The 2025/26 draft audit plan will be presented by the Audit Director and the Audit Manager from KPMG. The plan sets out the approach the auditors will take, the key issues, timescales, staffing and fee for the audit. The audit plan is appended to this report at Appendix 1.
- 6.6. Officers will provide the auditors with all necessary information during the audit. KPMG will provide audit progress report to the Audit Committee later in the year, followed by their Audit findings and any recommendations in January 2027.
- 6.7. Auditors are under increasing regulatory pressure to complete additional work, to gain higher levels of assurance before they can sign off an audit as complete.
- 6.8. Auditors are required to provide additional commentary in respect of the Council’s arrangements in place during the 2025/26 financial year to achieve Value for Money

7. Contribution to Strategic Outcomes

7.1. None.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Director of Legal & 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.

Legal

8.2. The Director of Legal & Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.3. The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 provide the framework of duties and responsibilities with regard to the audit of local authority accounts.

8.4. The Council is a category 1 authority and must also comply with the requirements of the relevant Regulations of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 when preparing the statement of accounts. Members should note the content of this cover report and the draft audit plan for the external audit to be carried out by KPMG. In considering the report Members must consider the expert financial advice available to it and any further oral advice given at the meeting of the Committee. The report does not raise any legal issues.

Equalities

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

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Audit Plan from KPMG

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

10.1. Not applicable.