

Audit and Governance Committee

08 April 2026



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

Title	External Auditor Update - KPMG
Purpose of the report	To note the report for information
Report status	Public report
Executive Director/ Statutory Officer Commissioning Report	Darren Carter, Section 151 Officer & Director of Finance
Report author	Nicky Blacker, Deputy Chief Accountant
Lead Councillor	Cllr Ellie Emberson, Lead Councillor for Corporate Services and Resources
Council priority	Not applicable, but still requires a decision
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Committee considers KPMG's final 2024/25 ISA 260 year-end report2. That the Committee notes KPMG's External Audit Plan & Strategy for the year ended 31 March 2026

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. A representative from KPMG will present the final version of their 2024/25 ISA 260 year-end report and their External Audit Plan & Strategy for the year ended 31 March 2026.

2. Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 2.1. The external audit process includes the approval of the annual Statement of Accounts results and the publication of accurate, transparent financial information which gives a true and fair view of Reading Borough Council's economic performance and financial stability.

3. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 3.1. None arising.

4. Community Engagement

- 4.1. The report will include where appropriate any feedback from public inspection of accounts.

5. Equality Implications

- 5.1. None arising.

6. Other Relevant Considerations

- 6.1. There are none.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended) require the council to produce and publish an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with these regulations and "proper practice".

- 7.2. Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2003 defines “proper practice” for this purpose to be the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountability (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code) for the relevant year. The Code specified the principles, practices, format and content required in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts of the Accounts.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. The audit fees are reported within the detail of the report or appendices.

9. Timetable for Implementation

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. Background Papers

- 10.1. There are none.

Appendices – delete if there are none

1. 2024/25 External Audit Report – Final (ISA260)
2. External Audit Plan & Strategy for the year ended 31 March 2026