

Audit and Governance Committee

25 September 2025



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 – Director of Finance
Report author	Mark Sanders, Chief Accountant
Lead Councillor	Councillor 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 notes KPMG's progress report on the external audit of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. A representative from KPMG will be attending the meeting to present a progress report on the audit of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts.

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. This 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. None arising.

9. Timetable for Implementation

9.1. Not Applicable.

10. Background Papers

10.1. There are none.

Appendices

1. External Audit of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts - Progress Update