



**Audit Committee
(Extraordinary)**

**Tuesday, 09
December 2025**

**Matter for
Information and
Decision**

Report Title: **Statement of Accounts Report (2024/25)**

Report Author(s): **Colleen Warren (Chief Finance Officer / S151 Officer)**
Simon Ball (Finance Manager / Deputy Section 141 Officer)

Purpose of Report:	To approve the Statement of Accounts 2024/25.
Report Summary:	<p>The draft Statement of Accounts were approved and uploaded onto the Council website in June 2025. These have since been subject to a detailed audit by the Councils external auditors, Grant Thornton.</p> <p>This report updates the Audit Committee on the outcome of the audit of the Statement of Accounts 2024/25.</p>
Recommendation(s):	<p>That the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Review and approve the Audited Financial Report (2024/25) (Appendix 1) including the Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 2) approved June 25) for the year ending 31 March 2025, subject to any final changes required in agreement with the Councils external auditors, Grant Thornton.B. Note the Audit Findings Report (2024/25) (at Appendix 3) and approve the outlined recommendations.C. Approve the publication of the Audited Financial Report and Annual Governance Statement and authorise the S151 officer in consultation with the Chair of the Audit Committee to make any final changes to the accounts as agreed with the external Auditors, in order to comply with the Councils statutory obligations.D. Approve the Letter of Representation (Appendix 4).
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Colleen Warren (Chief Finance Officer / Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2759 colleen.warren@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Simon Ball (Finance Manager / Deputy Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2624 simon.ball@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Strategic Objectives:	<p>Our Council (SO1) Our Communities (SO2) Our Economy (SO3) Our Environment (SO4)</p>

	Our Partners (SO5)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Economy / Regeneration (CR9)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report.
Human Rights:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unaudited Draft Statement of Accounts
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audited Financial Report (2024/25) 2. Annual Governance Statement (2024/25) 3. Audit Findings Report (2024/25) 4. Draft Letter of Representation (2024/25)

1. Introduction and Background

1.1 The publication of the Statement of Accounts is governed by requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. These require the Statement of Accounts to be certified by the Council's Section 151 Officer as presenting a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council by 31 May each year (amended to 30th June for the 20225 accounts).

1.2 The Council's unaudited Statement of Accounts were published on the OWBC website on 1st July 2025 and made available for the external audit. The audited Financial Report is provided at **Appendix 1**, which includes the adjustments made following the audit. The already approved Annual Governance Statement is provided at **Appendix 2**. The Audit

Findings Report is provided as **Appendix 3** The draft Letter of Representation is provided at **Appendix 4**.

2. The Statement of Accounts

2.1 The audited Statement of Accounts is provided at **Appendix 1**. As per the normal Council format, the salient points are detailed within the Narrative Report (p3 – p25) of the Statement of Accounts and are summarised below.

2.2 General Fund (p14): The outturn position is a £118K overspend, with the main cause of the overspend relating to pressures from increased homelessness.

2.3 Reserves and Balances (p17): The adjusted General Fund Reserve opening balance was £1.540m after a £225K appropriation to reserves that was omitted in 23/24. In 2024/25 the account had a budget deficit of £118k after appropriations to/from earmarked reserves, leaving General Fund Reserve balance of £1.422m on 31 March 2025.

The Housing Revenue Account opening balance on its main reserve was £1.411m. In 2024/25 the account had a budget surplus of £264k after appropriations from earmarked reserves, leaving an estimated HRA Reserve balance of £1.675m at 31 March 2025.

2.4 Pension Liabilities (p18): The Council owes £7.466m across future years offset by the value of assets invested in the pension fund. The Council contributed £1.85m to the scheme in 2024/25 and recognised a total charge of £0.71m for the year.

2.5 Provisions (p18): The Council has set aside a provision of £327K for business rate appeals against rateable valuations. Business ratepayers who have appealed against their assessment are still required to pay the rates demanded, but should their appeal be successful then any sums overpaid will be refunded.

2.6 Borrowing (p18): On 31 March 2024 the Council had a total external borrowing of £15.871m of long-term borrowing. This relates to loans from the Public Loans and Works Board (PWLb), which were either taken out in 2012 to fund HRA self-financing (£11.070m), or in 2016, to fund the leisure Centre project (£4.301m), with the remainder being general fund borrowing (£500k). Additionally, there is another £19.506m of short-term borrowing, both for cash flow purposes, and in lieu of long-term debt. All our borrowing was within our Prudential Code limit of £46m for the year.

2.7 Cash-Flow (p18): This shows a decrease of £389k in cash and cash equivalents from the previous year. Interest payable was £271k higher than in 2023/24, reflecting both the increase in interest rates over the period. Interest receivable increased in line with prevailing interest rates.

2.8 Financial Position (p19): We have maintained a strong financial position despite the financial challenges we face, with net assets increasing by £1.846m between 2023/24 and 2024/25 primarily due to pension changes. We are continuing to monitor the reserves regularly including the last MTFS and looking for other income streams and continuing to find savings.

2.9 Capital (p19): The 2024/25 Capital Programme was set at Full Council February 2024. Table 3 P19 provides a summary of the programme. Key features of the 2023/24 Capital programme included the undertaking of Decent Homes standard related works for Council homes, the replacement of the heating system at Chartwell House, upgrades at parks and play areas, and the acquisition and refurbishment of vehicles for the Council fleet.

2.10 Basis of Preparation (p20): When assessing what to include in these financial statements, the principle of materiality has been applied. This ensures that the core issues

considered to have an impact on the Council's strategies, governance, performance and aspirations in respect of matters such as the services it provides and the wellbeing of its local community, are presented. This includes matters that are ordinarily outside of the scope of financial reporting, but which are deemed to have a significant effect on the authority's ability to meet its objectives. Where information in this report is based on other information published by the Council, it is prepared on that same basis and is reconcilable and referenced to that published information.

2.11 Statement of Responsibilities (p26): This outlines the responsibilities of the Council and the Section 151 Officer in preparing the accounts as well as Members in approving the accounts.

2.12 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25: This is detailed at **Appendix 2** to this report and provided for information and was originally approved at July 2025 Audit Committee. Progress against the actions has been made and these will be reported at the July 2026 Audit Committee.

3. Audit Findings Report:

3.1 This is detailed at **Appendix 3** and will be presented by Grant Thornton LLC. The report outlines the key findings and other matters relating to the statutory audit of the Council and the preparation of the Council's financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2025 for those charged with governance.

3.2 Grant Thornton will take the Committee Members through several key items relating to the audit in detail. This will include key headlines, the audit approach, the financial statements significant risks, any new issues and risks, key judgements and estimates as well as their assessments.

4. Letter of Representation:

4.1 The Draft Letter of Representation is detailed at **Appendix 4**. The Audit committee is asked to approve the letter of representation, which is a standard but formal record of the representations made by the Council to our external auditors.