

**Meeting:** Audit Committee

**Date:** 18 February 2026

**Wards affected:** All

**Report Title:** Audited Statement of Accounts 2024/25

**Director Contact Details:** Malcolm Coe, Director of Finance, [malcolm.coe@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:malcolm.coe@torbay.gov.uk)

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## 1. Key points and Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the audited Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 to Audit Committee for approval.
- 1.2 Under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and as amended in The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2024 the draft 2024/25 Statement of Accounts are published by 30 June 2025 and the Audit Committee are required to approve the audited accounts by 27 February 2026 in line with the backstop legislation. The draft statement of accounts were published in November 2025
- 1.3 The audit of accounts commenced at the beginning of October 2025. This is now completed and the external Auditor, Grant Thornton's findings are set out in their Audit Findings Report (AFR). This report should be considered alongside the AFR being presented by Grant Thornton.
- 1.4 Grant Thornton have issued a 'disclaimer opinion' for the 2024/25 accounts. The AFR also provides detailed information on the reasons for the issuing of a disclaimed opinion and details the timeline for rebuilding assurance.

## 2. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

The Audit Committee are asked to:

- i) Approve the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement
- ii) Approve the signing of letter of representation

## Appendices

Appendix 1: 2024/25 Audited Statement of Accounts

Appendix 2: Letter of Representation

### **3. Context**

- 3.1. The Statement of Accounts have been prepared in accordance with The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code) which is based on International Reporting Standards (IFRS). This is necessary to ensure that accounts of all Government funded bodies provide comparable and consistent information. The Statement is required to present a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 March 2025 and the income and expenditure for the financial year 2024/25.
- 3.2. The Audit Findings Report in respect of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts provides details of the outcome of the audit and the 'disclaimer opinion' that has been issued by Grant Thornton. The AFR also provides detailed information on the reasons for the issuing of a disclaimed opinion and details the timeline for rebuilding assurance.
- 3.3. Audit Committee last considered the draft accounts at its meeting of 29 October 2025. Although there have been no adjustments to the primary statements, there have been a small number of corrections and additions to the notes made to the Statement since that date.
- 3.4. The main update is the inclusion of IFRS 16 notes for leases. These were missing from the draft accounts previously presented to Audit Committee while we sought external specialist advice to ensure compliance with the new standard. The updated notes are 27 and 28, with minor updates to the Property, Plant and Equipment note 20.
- 3.5. Following receipt of the audited accounts from the Council's subsidiary companies' adjustments have been made to the group accounts section to bring these in line with those audited accounts.
- 3.6. The Annual Governance Statement has been updated to reflect any significant events or developments since its approval by Members at the Audit Committee meeting on 8 September 2025.