

Appendices



Item No.

NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	2007/08 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
---------------------	--------------------------------------

AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Audit Committee Meeting Date:	24 June 2008
Policy Document:	
Directorate:	Governance and Improvement - Finance and Asset Management
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Councillor Malcolm Mildren

1. Purpose

1.1 To present the 2007/08 Statement of Accounts to the Audit Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the committee review the 2007/08 statement of accounts and indicate whether there are any concerns arising that need to be brought to the attention of the committee.
- 2.2 That the revised general fund balance be noted.
- 2.3 That subject to any comments arising at 2.1 above that Cabinet be asked to recommend that Council adopts the 2007/08 statement of accounts.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require the Council to formally approve the Statement of Accounts by 30th June.
- 3.1.2 The detailed format of the statement of accounts follows guidance issued by CIPFA/LASSAC. The format of the statement can change from year to year to reflect new requirements or changes in best practise.

- 3.1.3 The attached statement of accounts at Annex A will be presented to the external auditor on 27th June 2008 and will thereafter be available to the general public through the statutory deposit period. During this time members of the public may view documents and ask questions.
- 3.1.4 Any material changes arising from the audit of the 2007/08 accounts will be reported back to the Audit Committee in September.

3.2 Issues

General Fund

- 3.2.1 The General Fund working balances total £2.75m as identified within the Statement of Accounts at Annex A (page 29). The Council also holds General Fund earmarked reserves of £9.5m to mitigate specific business risks as identified within the Statement of Accounts at Annex A (page 67 Note 35 e). Taking the Council's financial position into account and the inherent risks in the 2008/09 budget along with potential risks relating to single status, the minimum prudent level of working balance should be £2.75m. This will be reviewed during 2008/09.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 3.2.2 The outturn position for the HRA shows an accumulated in year surplus of £0.3m giving a level of working balances of £5.6m as identified within the Statement of Accounts at Annex A (page 81). The Council also holds an HRA earmarked reserve of £6.0m to finance future capital expenditure as identified within the Statement of Accounts at Annex A (page 67 Note 35 e).

The Collection Fund

- 3.2.3 The collection fund had an in year deficit of £950k resulting in an overall fund deficit. It was estimated in January 2008 that the deficit would be £141k and this was apportioned between precepting authorities and the proportion relating to this council (£22k) was included when setting the budgets for 2008/09. The balance of the surplus will be carried forward into the 2008/09 collection fund and will form part of the calculation of surpluses and deficits for setting the 2009/10 budget.

3.3 Choices (Options)

- 3.3.1 The committee is invited to review the 2007/08 statement of accounts and indicate whether there are any concerns arising that need to be brought to the attention of the Cabinet and Council.
- 3.3.2 The committee is asked to note the revised general fund balance.
- 3.3.3 The committee is asked, subject to any comments arising at 3.3.1 above, to recommend that Council adopt the 2007/08 statement of accounts

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 The statement of accounts summarises the Councils Financial Position as at 31st March 2008.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The statement of accounts summaries the Councils Financial Position as at 31st March 2008.

4.2.2 The Council's General fund working balance as at 31st March 2008 was £2.75m. Balances which have been earmarked for use are £9.5m.

4.2.3 There are Comprehensive Performance Assessment implications on the timing of the approval of the statement of accounts and the annual governance statement.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 The statement of accounts is a statutory document, which needs to be approved by the Council by 30th June 2008 in respect of the 2007/08 financial year.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 None

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Internal - Management Board, Corporate Managers and Internal Audit.

4.5.2 External - The attached statement of accounts at Annex A will be presented to the external auditor on 27th June 2008 and will thereafter be available to the general public through the statutory deposit period. During this time members of the public may view documents and ask questions

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 Statement of Accounts Working Papers

Report Author:

Isabell Procter, Director of Finance & Asset Management
Tel. 01604 (83) 8757 iprocter@northampton.gov.uk