



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

29 JUNE 2009

Agenda Status: Public

Directorate: Finance & Support

Report Title	2008/09 Statement of Accounts
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1. Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Present the 2008/09 Statement of Accounts to Cabinet.
- b) Note any Audit Committee or Cabinet comments

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council review the 2008/09 statement of accounts.
- 2.2 That Cabinet consider any observations from Audit Committee and Cabinet.
- 2.3 That the revised general fund balance be noted.
- 2.4 That the Director of Finance and Support, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Finance, be authorised to make any non-material adjustments to the accounts prior to external audit.
- 2.5 That subject to any comments arising at 2.1 and 2.2 above that Council adopt the 2008/09 statement of accounts.

3. Report Background

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require the Council to formally approve the Statement of Accounts by 30th June.
- 3.2 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 practice.
- 3.3 The attached statement of accounts at Annex A will be presented to the external auditor on 30th June 2009 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.

3.4 Any material changes arising from the audit of the 2008/09 accounts will be reported back to the Audit Committee in September.

General Fund

3.5 The General Fund working balances total £2.0m as identified within the Statement of Accounts at Annex A (page 29). The Council also holds General Fund earmarked reserves of £8.2m to mitigate specific business risks as identified within the Statement of Accounts at Annex A (page 66 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 £2.0m. This will be reviewed during 2009/10.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

3.6 The outturn position for the HRA shows an accumulated in year surplus of £492k giving a level of working balances of £6.1m as identified within the Statement of Accounts at Annex A (page 81). The Council also holds an HRA earmarked reserve of £8.2m to finance future capital expenditure and the potential PFI set-up costs of £175k as identified within the Statement of Accounts at Annex A (page 66 Note 35 e).

The Collection Fund

3.7 The collection fund had an in year surplus of £143k resulting in an overall fund deficit of £803k. It was estimated in January 2009 that the deficit would be £553k and this was apportioned between precepting authorities and the proportion relating to this council (£86k) was included when setting the budgets for 2009/10. The balance will be carried forward into the 2009/10 collection fund and will form part of the calculation of surpluses and deficits for setting the 2010/11 budget.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Resources and Risk

4.1.1 The statement of accounts summaries the Council's Financial Position as at 31st March 2009.

4.1.2 The Council's General fund working balance as at 31st March 2008 was £2.0m. Balances which have been earmarked for use are £8.2m.

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

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 The statement of accounts is a statutory document which needs to be approved by the Council by 30th June 2009 in respect of the 2008/09 financial year.

4.3 Other Implications

4.3.1 None

5. Background Papers

5.1 Statement of accounts working papers

5.2 Audit Committee Paper and Minutes

5.3 Cabinet Report & Minutes

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