

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE
MEETING ON 23RD JUNE, 2008

CABINET
MEETING ON 26TH JUNE, 2008

REPORT ON FINAL ACCOUNTS 2007/2008

COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Internal Organisational Theme
CORPORATE THEME:	Improving Corporacy & Performance
KEY PRIORITY:	Financial and Asset Management
STRATEGY:	Final Accounts
CABINET MEMBER:	Cllr. John Champion
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Financial Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	David Buckland Ext. 2100
APPENDIX 1	Statement of Accounts 2007/2008 - Overview
APPENDIX 2	Appendix setting out an Explanation of Major Variations on Revised 2007/2008 Budgets
APPENDIX 3	Annual Efficiency Statement (Backward Look)
AN OPEN ITEM	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To approve a pre-audit copy of the Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2007/2008 and Annual Efficiency Statement (Backward Look).

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE that :-

- 2.1 The Pre-Audit Statement of Accounts, 2007/2008, be approved.
- 2.2 The Annual Efficiency Statement 2007/2008 (Backward Look) be approved for submission to Communities and Local Government Office.
- 2.3 Note that the additional reserves of £320,370 generated from the 2007/2008 surplus will be reconsidered in accordance with the Council's Finance Strategy, as part of the 2009/2012 Budget Process.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, as amended by the Accounts & Audit (Amendment) (Regulations) 2006, which have been incorporated into the Council's Financial Regulations, require that the Council's Statement of Accounts be produced and approved before 30th June, 2008. A copy of the Statement for the financial year 2007/2008 has been made available on the Council's Intranet for Members perusal. If you require a hard copy please inform the Accountancy Section.
- 3.2 The Statement is subject to audit and as the Council's external auditor, the Audit Commission, has until 30th September, 2008 to complete the audit; after which the Statement is published.
- 3.3 Should it be necessary for the Audit Commission to agree minor technical changes with the Head of Financial Services while the accounts are subject to audit, these will be made under delegated powers and the Statement will then be published. All Members of the Council will be provided with a published copy of the Statement.
- 3.4 Members may wish to note that the Council's Accounts will be made available for public inspection as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 and the 2006 Amendment, between 30th June 2008 and 25th July 2008. The Audit Commission will be available on the 28th July 2008, at the Financial Services Division, Duke House, if any local government elector for the area has any questions on the accounts that they wish to raise with them.
- 3.5 The closure of the accounts thus identified a saving of £320,370 (subject to audit) compared to the revised budget.
- 3.6 Appendix 1 gives a brief explanation of the key components of the Statement of Accounts.
- 3.7 Appendix 2 summarises major variations from the Revised Budget for Members information.
- 3.8 Appendix 3 summarises the Council's Annual Efficiency Statement 2007/2008 (Backward Look) which identifies 'Efficiency Savings' identified in the Final Accounts in accordance with guidelines from the Communities and Local Government Office.

4. KEY ISSUES

None.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The saving of £320,370, compared to the revised budget, will be reconsidered in accordance with the Council's Finance Strategy, as part of the 2009/2012 Budget Process.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The principle risk to the Council is non-achievement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003/2006 deadline, in respect of production and approval of the Statement of Accounts before 30th June 2008, and qualification of the Accounts by the Council's External Auditors.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 In order to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, the Council is required to consider and approve the Council's Statement of Accounts before 30th June 2008.

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 CMT.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 and 2006 Amendments.