

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE
29th SEPTEMBER 2008

Statement of Accounts 2007/2008

OPEN	
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Internal Organisational Theme
CORPORATE PLAN AIM:	A Well-Run and Responsive Council
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Mr Nathan Desmond
HEAD OF SERVICE:	David Buckland, Head of Financial Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Tracey Southall, Accountancy Services Manager tracey.southall@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES	Appendix 1 – Summary of changes required to the Statement of Accounts 2007/08 Appendix 2 – Draft Letter of Representation 2007/08 Appendix 3 – Statement of Accounts 2008/2008 – Overview

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the changes that have been required to the Statement of Accounts for 2007/2008 following the audit undertaken by the Audit Commission.
- 1.2 The Council is also required to provide an updated version of the Letter of representation to the auditors, before they will issue the audit opinion for 2007/2008, the wording of this is attached for approval.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee is asked to DECIDE that:

- 2.1 **The necessary changes to the accounts summarised at Appendix 1 be noted.**
- 2.2 **The letter of representation for 2007/2008 attached at Appendix 2 be approved.**
- 2.3 **That the revised summary statement of Accounts at Appendix 3 be noted.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The draft Statement of Accounts were approved by the Audit Committee at the meeting held on 23rd June 2008.
- 3.2 The Audit Commission has now concluded their audit of the accounts and have indicated that they will be providing an unqualified opinion.
- 3.3 However, during the course of the audit there were a number of minor issues that were raised by the auditors and the accounts were amended accordingly. A summary of the changes required to the accounts is attached at Appendix 1. The changes were required in the main as a result of ambiguity in relation to the implementation of new capital accounting rules for 2007/2008, and differences in approach as a result of the change in external auditors from KPMG to the Audit Commission this year.
- 3.4 Incorporating the changes identified at Appendix 1 the Statement of Accounts will be published by 30th September 2008, these will also be made available via the Council's web-site.
- 3.5 Attached at Appendix 2 is the letter of representation. This letter is in line with the requirements of the Audit Commission as detailed within their Annual Governance Reports. This letter is to be signed by the s.151 officer (Head of Resources), and the chair of the Audit Committee.
- 3.6 A revised Statement of Accounts Overview is attached at Appendix 3.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Audit of the Statement of Accounts for 2007/2008 has been concluded and it is likely that the Audit Commission will issue an unqualified Audit Opinion.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This is a Financial report identifying changes required to the Statement of Accounts 2007/2008 following the audit, and presentation of the Letter of Representation.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 that the Statement of Accounts are published by 30th September following the end of the financial year.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 It is necessary for the accounts to be published by 30th September 2007, if these are not approved this would mean that the Council has not complied with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Council is required to prepare and approve the draft Statement of Accounts by 30th June 2008, and for these to be audited and published by 30th September 2008. This report highlights the changes to the accounts, which have been required as a result of the audit.
- 8.2 The report also approves the Letter of Representation which is required to be signed before the Audit Commission can provide their opinion in relation to the 2007/2008 statement of accounts.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 CMT.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Audit Committee Report 23rd June 2008.