



Committee and Date
Council
24 September 2009

Item

Paper

Public

AUDITED ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09 (SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

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Summary

This covering report and attached Annual Statement of Accounts, present to Members the audited Accounts for 2008/09 on which the District Auditor has given an unqualified opinion.

Members have previously approved the draft Accounts (16 July Council Meeting) and this report also identifies technical changes made to the Accounts since the July Council Meeting.

Recommendations

- A. Members are asked to note the audited 2008/09 Annual Statement of Accounts on which the District Auditor has given an unqualified opinion.

REPORT

Background

1. The Statement of Accounts and Revenue and Capital Outturn reports were presented to the Audit Committee on 2 July 2009 and to Council on 16 July 2009. Closure of the accounts for 2008/09 was achieved in accordance with the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Further Transitional and Supplementary Provision and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2009, which extended the deadline for signing and approval of the statement of accounts by 31 July 2009 for the new unitary authorities.
2. The Audit Commission audited the accounts during July/August and the Auditor has issued an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts. The formal publication of the audited Statement of Accounts was made to the Audit Committee on 17 September 2009, this formal publication is now being made to all Council Members.

Audit Commission Opinion

3. In summary the Audit Commission reported as follows.

“The Authority’s financial statements present fairly, in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2008, the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2009 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and

The Group financial statements present fairly, in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2008, the financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2009 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

In my opinion the pension fund accounts and related notes present fairly, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2008, the financial transactions of the Pension Fund during the year ended 31 March 2009, and the amount and disposition of the fund’s assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2009, other than liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the end of the scheme year.”

Changes from the Draft Statement of Accounts Approved by Council on 16 July 2009

4. There have been no material changes to any of the main accounting statements since the version reported to the Audit Committee and Council in July 2009. A number of technical changes and minor typographical errors have been made, all with the agreement of the Audit Commission. The main changes are listed below:

- a) The Government Grants Deferred balance has been reduced to offset the impairment charge incurred during the year (page 70).
- b) The Temporary Loans and Long Term Loans figures on the Balance Sheet have been updated to reflect the reclassification of a loan from long term to short term (page 70).
- c) The Pooled Budgets Note (note 9 on page 80) has been amended to correctly reflect the contributions made by Shropshire County Council and the Shropshire County Primary Care Trust.
- d) The Leases Note (note 11 on page 81 and 82) has been expanded to provide details on assets where the authority acts as a lessor. This change ensures that the note now better reflects the illustrative notes in the statement of recommended practice.
- e) A Group Cash Flow Statement (page 169) has been included within the Group Accounts to ensure that the dividend received from West Mercia Supplies is specifically reported.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Audited Statement of Accounts 2008/09. Audit Committee 17 September 2009.

Statement of Accounts 2008/09. Audit Committee 2 July 2009, Council 16 July 2009.

Revenue Outturn 2008/09. Audit Committee 2 July 2009, Council 16 July 2009.

Capital Outturn 2008/09. Audit Committee 2 July 2009, Council 16 July 2009.

Council Constitution: Part 4, Rules of Procedure – Financial Procedure Rules.

Human Rights Act Appraisal

The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Environmental Appraisal

N/A

Community / Consultations Appraisal

The original budget was subject to a public consultation process. A Summary Statement of Accounts has also been produced for public use. All of this information is available in hard copy and on the Council's website and can be made available in different formats for people with disabilities.

Cabinet Member

All Cabinet Members.

Local Member

All Members.

Appendices

Audited Statement of Accounts 2008/09 – Available in the Members' Library

Decision(s)