

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE, 13 JULY 2005

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Williams (Leader of the Council)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2004/05

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Statement of Accounts for 2004/05 is required to be approved by the Corporate Governance Committee. To promote debate on the Annual Accounts, members of the Financial Services Unit will do a presentation on the main financial highlights arising from the Accounts and will be available to answer questions that the Committee may have.

1 Purpose

1.1 To obtain the Committee's approval of the annual Statement of Accounts as signed by the Leader of the Council and the Strategic Director.

2 Background

2.1 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations the Statement of Accounts is required to be approved by a resolution of a nominated committee. The current constitutional arrangements allocate this responsibility to the Corporate Governance Committee. In addition to being signed by the Council's S151 officer (the Strategic Director), the annual accounts have to be signed by the Chair of the Council Committee that approves those accounts. This responsibility therefore falls upon the Chair of this Committee.

2.2 The existing legislation requires the 2004/05 Statement of Accounts to be formally approved by Members by the end of July. It is pleasing to note that these Accounts are being presented to Members two weeks ahead of that deadline.

2.3 Next year this statutory deadline is being moved back one month to the end of June.

2.4 The 2004/05 Accounts presented this evening are subject to audit, which is currently being undertaken by the Audit Commission. The Accounts presented this evening are complete, subject to the Auditors Opinion.

3 Statement of Accounts

3.1 The format of the Statement of Accounts is largely the same as last year, and complies fully with current local authority accounting arrangements. A new requirement for 2004/05 is for the inclusion of Group Accounts which bring into the Council's financial statements the

activities of organisations over which the Council has significant control, for example Tone Leisure. The Council's Group Accounts are shown towards the back of the document presented this evening.

- 3.2 The Principal Accountant and Financial Services Manager will do a brief presentation on the main highlights shown in the Annual Accounts and will be available to answer queries which the Committee may have. However as the Annual Accounts are a largely technical document it would be useful to receive advance notification of particular questions in order that a comprehensive answer can be provided at the meeting.

4 Notice of Conclusion of Audit

- 4.1 Following the conclusion of Audit, this Committee will be informed of any significant amendments arising. If there are no significant amendments, there will be no further report on the 2004/05 Statement of Accounts.

5 Effect on Corporate Priorities

- 5.1 Being a corporate document detailing all of the financial activities of the Council the Statement of Accounts for 2004/05 impacts on all corporate priorities.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Committee is recommended to:

a) Approve the Statement of Accounts for 2004/05.

b) Make the following determinations in respect of the year ended 31 March 2005:-

1. Section 42(2)(g)

That £599k of expenditure for capital purposes, which was financed by grant, be capitalised.

2. Section 60(2)

That £2,218k of useable capital receipts be applied to meet capital expenditure.

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