
Meeting: Audit Committee
Date: 30 October 2009
Subject: South Bedfordshire District Council Statement of Accounts 2008/09
Report of: Director of Corporate Resources
Summary: This report presents the revised South Bedfordshire District Council Statement of Accounts 2008/09 to the Audit Committee following external audit validation.

Advising Officer: Clive Heaphy, Director of Corporate Resources
Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Audit Committee

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Statements of Accounts of the demised authorities are an essential part of corporate governance and accountability and provide the starting point for the robust financial standing and sound financial management of the new authority, which are essential to the Council delivering its initial corporate objectives and priorities:

- (i) Supporting and caring for an ageing population
- (ii) Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people
- (iii) Managing growth effectively
- (iv) Creating safer communities
- (v) Promoting healthier lifestyles

Financial:

None

Legal:

None

Risk Management:

None

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None

Equalities/Human Rights:

None

Community Development/Safety:

None

Sustainability:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the revised South Bedfordshire District Council Statement of Accounts 2008/09 be considered.
2. That approval of the final post-audit South Bedfordshire District Council Statement of Accounts 2008/09 for publication be delegated to the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Director of Corporate Resources.

Reason for Recommendations: To progress the statutory duty to approve the Statement of Accounts for publication. To inform the Committee of changes in the Statement of Accounts following external audit validation..

Background

- 1 Members will recall that the meeting of the Audit Committee of 27 July 2009 approved the South Bedfordshire District Council Statement of Accounts for 2008/09 subject to external audit validation. The Council's external auditor, the Audit Commission, has now nearly completed that work and is hoping to issue an audit opinion shortly. This report presents a revised Statement of Accounts for consideration, and requests that approval of the final post-audit South Bedfordshire District Council Statement of Accounts 2008/09 for publication be delegated to the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Director of Corporate Resources.

Statement of Accounts 2008/09

2. The Committee is asked to consider the revised, audited, version of the Statement of Accounts attached as Appendix 1. The Statement has incorporated the adjustments referred to in the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report, considered previously on this agenda. At the time of issue of this agenda, the revised Statement is still subject to final review by the Audit Commission, and consequently the Committee is asked to approve the delegation requested in Recommendation 2.

3. The main changes in the Statement from the draft version approved in July are summarised in the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report. There are a sizeable number of adjustments, many of which relate to issues concerning valuation of the Council's housing stock. None of these adjustments change the position regarding the financial balances carried forward into the new authority from that previously reported.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - South Bedfordshire District Council Revised Statement of Accounts 2008/09

Background Papers:

Various Closure of Accounts Working Papers

Location of papers: District Offices, Dunstable