

9 : STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Report of Head of Finance

- 1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 require that the Statement of Accounts receive formal approval by the Council, or a committee of the Council, by 30 September following the financial year end. A copy of the Statement of Accounts is being circulated as a separate document.
- 2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has provided guidance on the respective roles of the Head of Finance and Members in this process. The Head of Finance, as the legally responsible financial officer, retains responsibility, amongst other matters, for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts and is required to certify their fair presentation. The Members' role in approval is to demonstrate ownership of the accounting statements and confidence in the process by which the accounting records are maintained and the statement prepared.
- 3 The process therefore provides Members with an opportunity to raise questions based on the accounts, in order to achieve a broad understanding of their content and to be satisfied that they are consistent with other financial information received from time to time.
- 4 The format for the Statement of Accounts is mainly prescribed by the CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting with which local authorities must comply, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. For the financial year 2000/01 the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the prescribed Best Value format, introduced with effect from April 2000.
- 5 Some of the main points to be taken from the Statement of Accounts include:
 - All committees underspent against their cash limits, with the total underspends amounting to £1.2m or 0.4% of budget.

- Total revenue expenditure in 2000/01 amounted to £341.072m and meant that non-earmarked reserves were increased by £2.845m to £13.5m.
- Total capital cash expenditure in 2000/01 amounted to £31.297m.

RECOMMENDED

That the Council APPROVES the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2001.