

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

06 September 2010

Report of the Director of Finance

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/10

To inform Members of the outcome of the audit of the Council's Accounts for 2009/10.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Our external auditor (the District Auditor) is required by the Audit Commission's statutory Code of Practice for Local Government bodies to issue a report to those charged with governance covering, amongst other things, the outcome of the audit of the Accounts, and for this to be endorsed and approved before the Accounts are signed off.
- 1.1.2 This report can be found elsewhere on this agenda and I am pleased to report that there was no material or significant issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Committee following the audit, although some minor technical and textual amendments have been made. Members will note that there are some issues that remain outstanding at the time of writing this report, I expect the majority of these, which are minor, to be resolved by the time of the meeting, however, the issue on the pension changes requires some input from the Actuary employed by Kent County Council. We will verbally update members of the outcome of these issues at the meeting.
- 1.1.3 Members will recall that they received and approved an unaudited copy of the Statement of Accounts at the meeting of this Committee on 28 June 2010. Since only minor changes have been made to the Accounts following the audit, I do not propose circulating copies of the audited Accounts to all Members. For completeness, however, I will be asking the Chairman to sign a copy of the audited Accounts for 2009/10 once the issues mentioned in paragraph 1.1.2 have been resolved. Further copies may be obtained by contacting my Chief Accountant, Neil Lawley on 876095, or my Principal Accountant, Paul Worden on 876106 who will be pleased to supply a copy and answer any questions you may have.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 There are a number of legislative requirements to consider in the preparation and publication of the Statement of Accounts which will be addressed as we move through the closedown process.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 The cost of the work carried out by the district auditor is as notified to us in the 2009/10 Audit Plan.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 The Statement of Accounts is a statutory document and, therefore, failure to prepare and publish the Accounts in accordance with proper accounting practice and within the statutory timescale could lead to qualification of the Accounts by the District Auditor.

1.5 Recommendations

- 1.5.1 Members are **RECOMMENDED** to request the Chairman to sign the Accounts in the appropriate place once all issues have been resolved.

Background papers:

contact: Neil Lawley

Working papers held by the Accountancy Section

Paul Worden

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance