

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director of Support Services  
to  
**Audit Committee**  
on  
**23 June 2010**

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## Statutory Statement of Accounts 2009/10

### *A Part 1 Public Agenda Item*

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#### **1 Purpose of Report**

To adopt the Statement of Accounts 2009/10

#### **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That following due consideration, that the Statement of Accounts 2009/10 be adopted

#### **3 Background**

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, as amended, require that an Authority's Annual Statement of Accounts is adopted three months after the end of the financial year; that is by the end of June.
- 3.2 Adoption of the Accounts can only be undertaken by the Council as a whole, or a Council Committee to which the function has been delegated. At Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, the Audit Committee has the delegated power to adopt the Accounts. In adopting the accounts, Audit Committee need to satisfy themselves that the process of drawing up the accounts is robust, and that all relevant guidance and standards have been satisfactorily followed: It is not the role of Audit Committee to pass comment on the financial outturn of the Authority per se, rather to ensure it is accurately reported.
- 3.3 Before adopting the Statement of Accounts 2009/10, Members need to understand how the structure of the accounts works. Appendix 1 guides Members through the various statements and the accompanying notes, drawing Members attention to any significant variances or changes year on year. The appendix therefore serves as an aid to Members' robust scrutiny of the Accounts prior to their adoption.

3.4 The Statement of Accounts is attached at Appendix 2. After due consideration, Members are invited to adopt them.

#### **4 Next Steps**

4.1 Following adoption, the Accounts will be passed over to the Council's external auditors PKF, who will begin their detailed examination. As part of that process, the public will have right of inspection of the Accounts, and the right to question the auditor.

4.2 The auditors will present their findings in late summer, and will formally report to the Audit Committee in September. The Statement of Accounts will be published by 30 September, together with a more accessible Summary Statement of Accounts.

#### **5 Corporate Implications**

##### 5.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Critical Priorities

The accuracy, format and content of the Statement of Accounts are key determinants in maintaining the Council's reputation for financial probity and financial stewardship

##### 5.2 Financial Implications

The Statement of Accounts is required to present a true and fair picture of the Council's financial position at 31 March 2010 and also the income and expenditure for the financial year.

##### 5.3 Legal Implications

The Statement of Accounts is a statutory document required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations issued by the Secretary of State

##### 5.4 People Implications

None

##### 5.5 Property Implications

None

##### 5.6 Consultation

A Summary Statement of Accounts will be made available to the public which will provide an opportunity to give their opinion and suggestions for improvements.

##### 5.7 Equalities Impact Assessment

None

##### 5.8 Risk Assessment

None

##### 5.9 Value for Money

None

5.10 Community Safety Implications  
None

5.11 Environmental Impact  
None

**6 Background Papers**

Detailed working papers are held by Accountancy, and will be passed to the External Auditors for detailed examination

**7 Appendices**

**Appendix 1** Overview of the Statutory Statement of Accounts 2009/10

**Appendix 2** Statutory Statement of Accounts 2009/10