

Executive

Annual report and summary of accounts 2008/9

7 September 2009

Report of Strategic Director Customer Services and Resources

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report seeks approval of the combined Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9, subject to any amendments of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee on 23 September 2009.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) Consider the draft Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9 (latest version appendix 1 remains work in progress), to be given final approval subject to any amendments by the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee on 23 September 2009.
- (2) Delegate any changes arising as a result of this meeting to the Chief Executive and The Leader of The Council to agree final format prior to the Accounts Audit and Risk Committee on 23rd September

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 The combined Annual Report and Summary of Accounts build on our commitment to be an accessible, value for money council. It aims to provide an easy to understand overview of our accounts, available in different formats. This year's document follows the successful format of last years (copies available on request)

This year's document includes acknowledgement of the contribution of our significant partners to the outcomes for the year.

- 1.2 The Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9 is a public document that sets out what the council achieved in 2008/9, how we managed our finances and what we intend to achieve in 2009/10. As well as meeting the requirement to publish a summary of accounts it also includes our environmental statement, both of which are required under the Use of Resources inspection regime.
- 1.3 The purpose of the document is to communicate complicated information about performance and finance in an informative, easy-to-understand and accessible way.

Conclusion

- 1.4 The report will be available on-line and in hard copy in our one stop shops. It will be distributed to partner organisations and community groups. It will be available on request in a variety of formats to ensure it is accessible to as wide an audience as possible. In keeping with the previous year, feedback for improvement will be actively sought from a wide range of stakeholders and used to inform changes to next year's report.

Background Information

- 2.1 The Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9 shows the council has delivered its promises from the 2008/9 council tax leaflet, significantly improved its overall performance (formally recognised as excellent under the CPA inspection process) and managed its finances prudently and efficiently remaining financially sound during a period of unprecedented economic turbulence. Council tax increases were kept below the level of inflation again. In setting out our ambitions for 2008/9 we demonstrate a commitment to further improve the performance of the organisation and the services we deliver to the public.
- 2.2 The report is a key way of communicating our achievements and plans to the public. We will reach as wide an audience as possible and will highlight the availability of the report in the next issue of Cherwell Link. The report will be available on line and through the council's one stop shops. Copies will be sent to partner organisations and community groups. We will ensure accessibility by making the document available on request in Braille, large print, in other languages and in audio format. We will also ensure people are able to provide comments and feedback on the document's format and content.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 To make proposals for the content and format of the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

Option One Consider and recommend the latest draft Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9 (attached at Appendix 1), to be given final approval by the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee on 23 September 2009.

Option Two Consider and not recommend the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9 (attached at Appendix 1), to be given final approval by the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee on 23 September 2009.

Consultations

Chambers of Commerce Feedback from previous annual report was actively sort as part of the current years budget process.

Implications

Financial: There are no financial implications arising form this report. The Annual Report is funded from within existing resources.

Comments to be checked by Karen Curtin, Chief Accountant, 01295 221 551

Legal:

Publication of this report allows us to meet the statutory requirements to publish a summary of accounts

Comments to be checked by Pam Wilkinson, Principal Solicitor, 01295 221688

Risk Management:

The Annual Report and Summary of Accounts records the delivery of the council's strategic objectives, key performance indicators and management of resources during 2008/9.

Comments to be checked by Rosemary Watts, Risk management and insurance officer 01295 221 566

Wards Affected

All

Corporate Plan Themes

The Annual Report and Summary of Accounts covers key activities included in the Corporate Plan and is an integral part of our accessible and value for money strategic priority.

Executive Portfolio

Councillor James Macnamara
Portfolio Holder for Resources

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Draft Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/9 –
Background Papers	
None	
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