

**CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**ACCOUNTS, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

**23rd SEPTEMBER 2009**

**JOINT REPORT OF STRATEGIC DIRECTOR CUSTOMER SERVICE AND RESOURCES AND  
THE HEAD OF FINANCE**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09**

**1 Introduction and Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the combined Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/09 (latest draft attached), subject to any amendments the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee may wish to make. A further revision will be presented to the Committee at the meeting.

**2 Wards Affected**

- 2.1 All wards are affected.

**3 Effect on Policy**

- 3.1 None.

**4 Contact Officer(s)**

- 4.1 Julie Evans (Ext 1585)  
Karen Curtin (Ext 1551)

**5 Executive Summary**

- 5.1 In keeping with our commitment to ensure transparency in our business and provide accessible easily understandable information for all this combined report builds on the successful "accessible" format of our combined report last year (copies available on request).
- 5.2 The Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/09 is a public document that sets out what the Council achieved during the year, 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 is the vehicle for our environmental statement and reflective of the contribution made by our significant partners during the year. The purpose of the document is to communicate information about performance and finance (often considered complex and unwieldy by the general public) in an informative, easily understood and accessible way. The report will be available on-line, and in hard copy at all of our customer service facilities. In addition we will circulate copies to all our partners and community groups and make it available on request in a variety of formats to ensure it is accessible to as a wide an audience as possible.
- 5.3 The Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/09 shows the Council has delivered its promises during the year it was recognised as "Excellent" by external inspection. Outcomes reflect further improvement in overall performance, effective management of finances during

a period of unprecedented economic turmoil, efficient use of resources maintaining the increase in Council Tax below the level of inflation. In setting out our ambitions for 2009/10 we demonstrate a commitment to further improve the performance of the organisations and the services we deliver to the public and further reduction in costs.

The report is a key means by which we communicate our achievements and plans to the public. We will reach as wide an audience as is possible by detailing availability in the next publication of Cherwell Link. The report will be available on line and through the council's customer service facilities. Copies will be sent to our partner organisations and community groups. We will ensure accessibility is as wide as possible by making the document available on request in Braille, large print, in other languages, and audio tape. We will also ensure people are able to provide comments and feedback on the document format and content.

## **6 Risk Assessment, Financial Effects and Contributions to Efficiency Savings**

- 6.1 The following details approved by and Karen Muir (ext. 1559).
- 6.2 Risk assessment – The Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/09 record the delivery of the Council's strategic objectives, key performance indicators and management of resources during year. The appropriate risk register entries were made for the period covered.
- 6.3 Financial effects – there are no financial issues arising from this report. Its publication is funded from within existing resources.
- 6.4 Efficiency savings – there are no efficiency savings arising from this report.

## **7 Recommendation**

- 7.1 That the Annual Report and Summary of Accounts 2008/09 be approved for publication, subject to the inclusion of any amendments that the Committee may wish to make.

Background Papers: None.