

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS – 2007-08

Director's Statement

Each year, the Council produces an annual Statement of Accounts, which is prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and best practice as recommended by the Accounting Code of Practice that applies to local authorities. The information contained in this summary has been modified to provide more easily understandable information.

The Council's 2007-08 accounts have been audited by PricewaterhouseCooper, who are appointed by the Audit Commission. The auditor has issued an unqualified opinion and the full statement of accounts is available on the Council's website.

The Council's Accounts

Council's are required to keep separate accounts in relation to continuing annual service provision (revenue accounts) and major expenditure on assets (capital accounts).

We are also required to account separately for income and expenditure relating to our Housing stock (called the Housing Revenue Account – HRA). HRA expenditure is funded from rents; Council Tax income cannot be used to pay for HRA expenditure. Net expenditure on Housing relates to the Councils statutory and strategic housing responsibilities and internal charges for asset usage.

All services other than HRA are termed General Fund services. These are funded by a combination of government grant, non-domestic rates (sometimes called business rates) and Council Tax.

Both General Fund and HRA have reserves (sometimes called working balances) to enable changes in expenditure and income between years to be managed and to meet any significant unexpected or urgent expenditure.

2007-08 Revenue Budget and Reserves

In March 2007 the Council set a budget for 2007-08 of £127.6M. This included the Dedicated Schools Grant of £57.0M, projected Local Public Service Agreement grant of £0.3M and Local Authorities Business Growth Incentive grant of £1.4M. The budget requirement for 2007-08 was £68.8M. The budget is proactively managed throughout the year and can be amended in accordance with the Council's Constitution. During the year, an additional £0.7M of reserves was released to fund various projects.

At the start of 2007-08, the Council planned to have unallocated reserves of £10.6M at 31st March 2008. As a result of changes to the financing of some major items of expenditure and reductions in some areas of spending, during the year the Council revised its planned level of reserves to £9.2M. Actual reserves at 31st March 2007 were £8.9M. In addition, departments held £0.2M of allocated reserves that are earmarked for specific services at 31st March 2008.

The Council plans to use reserves over the next four years (£1.6M in 2008-09) to effectively control spending within projected resources. The level of reserves at 31st March 2008 is appropriate, given the need to carefully manage expenditure limitations over the next four to five years.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure represents money spent by the Council for the purpose of purchasing, upgrading or improving fixed assets such as Council Houses, land, buildings and equipment. The distinction from revenue expenditure is that the Council essentially receives the benefit from capital expenditure over a longer period of time.

During 2007-2008 the Council spent £41.3M on Capital Schemes within the following areas of the Council: -

Service	£M
Housing	11.4
Community Services	9.4
Children Services	11.8
Chief Exec's (Regeneration)	3.1
Transport	3.3
Corporate	1.3
Adult Services	0.7
Prudential Borrowing for Leasable Assets	0.3
	41.3

The capital expenditure was paid for by following: -

Funding	£M
Capital Grants	26.8
Borrowing	9.7
Capital Receipts	0.8
Revenue Contributions	2.8
Capital Contribution	1.2
	41.3

REVENUE ACCOUNT – for the year ended 31st March 2008

The Revenue Account shows the cost of delivering all Council services from 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008, where the money came from and the deficit for the year, which reduces Reserves.

Revenue Account	Net Expenditure £M	
Children's and Education Services	18.5	
Adult Social Care	24.3	
Cultural, environmental & planning services	20.9	
Highways, roads & transport services	6.1	
Housing services	7.0	
Central services to the public	1.2	
Corporate and democratic core	5.0	
Court Services	0.1	
NDC	2.2	
Net Cost of Services	85.3	
Internal charges for use of assets	3.8	
Appropriations to and from reserves	-18.6	
Amount to be met from Government Grants and Local Taxation	70.5	
Financed by: -		
Revenue Support Grant	4.8	6.8%
Non-domestic Rates (Business Rates)	28.3	40.1%
Council Tax	35.7	50.6%
Local Authority Business Growth Incentive	1.3	1.9%
Local Public Service Agreement	0.4	0.6%
Total income from Government Grants & Local Taxation	70.5	
Net General Fund surplus for the year		

General Fund Reserve	£M
Brought forward at 1st April 2007	13.1
Deficit for the year	-4.2
Carried forward at 31st March 2008	8.9

Housing Revenue Account – expenditure and income relating to the Council’s housing stock – 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008	£M
Income	
Rents	14.6
Charges and contributions	1.9
Total Income	16.5
Expenditure	
Repairs and maintenance	3.0
Management	4.9
RCCO	2.8
Capital financing costs	1.4
Other costs	4.4
Total Expenditure	16.5
Working balance at 1st April 2007	0.6
Deficit for the Year	0.1
Working balance at 31st March 2008	0.7

BALANCE SHEET - What the Council owns, owes and is owed at 31st March 2008

Assets and Liabilities	£M
Council dwellings	180.4
Other Land and Buildings	183.2
Other fixed assets	58.9
Money owed to the Council	70.0
Money owed by the Council	-41.2
Total Assets less liabilities	451.3
Financed by: -	
Borrowing	102.3
Non-distributable reserves (1)	324.8
Distributable reserves (2)	24.2
Total Financing of Net Assets	451.3

(1) Non-distributable reserves are: -
Capital Adjustment (£292.4M) and deferred grants accounts (£32.4M)

(2)

Distributable reserves are: -	£M
General Fund reserve	8.9
Schools reserves	2.0
Housing Revenue Account	0.6
Other	12.7
Total Distributable Reserves	24.2

Some of the Council's published financial information: -

Revenue Medium Term Financial Plans and Budgets

<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Democracy/Financial+Services/Medium+Term+Financial+Plan.htm>

Annual Accounts – report to Audit Committee

[Statement of Accounts 2007-2008 Unaudited Version - pdf document](#)

Annual Audit and Inspection Letter – reported to Audit Committee

<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Democracy/Political+Management/Meeting.htm?id=943>
(agenda item number 6)

Comprehensive Performance Assessment – overall rating and details

<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Democracy/Comprehensive+Performance+Assessment.htm>

If you require further information about the Council's accounts, or wish to comment on this summary statement, please contact Accounting Services on 01325 388326 or e-mail enquiries@darlington.gov.uk