

SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2008 / 2009



Stafford
BOROUGH COUNCIL



INTRODUCTION

Stafford Borough Council presents the Summary Statement of Accounts for 2008/09.

This summary of the accounts has been prepared to provide a more accessible and easier to understand version of the full Statement of Accounts which is a technically complex document. In addition to the financial information, non-financial information has been included to highlight the work of the Council during the 2008/09 year. We would appreciate any comments you may have on the document.

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DAY-TO-DAY SPENDING

What did we spend the money on?

We show the cost of running our services in our revenue account. This account shows you the costs in 2008/09 and the amount left to be financed from local and national tax income.

WHAT WE SPENT	NET EXPENDITURE 2008/09 £000
Central services to the public	3,630
Cultural and related services	7,357
Environmental services	5,368
Planning and development	2,437
Housing services	2,074
Highways and transport	2,653
Corporate and democratic core	1,981
Non-distributed costs	628
Net Cost of Services	26,128
Less: Internal capital charges	(10,574)
Less: Income from cash investments	(1,225)
Add: Net transfers to / from reserves and other adjustments	2,420
Cost of local services met by local and national taxes	16,749



DAY-TO-DAY SPENDING

How did we pay?

We spent £16.749 million on running services after allowing for income and transfers from reserves. We financed our spending using local and national taxes as follows:

HOW WE PAID FOR SERVICES	2008/09 £000
Local taxes - council tax	7,133
National taxes - formula grant	1,487
Business rates	7,599
Use of Council balances	530
Total Income	16,749

Our total income for 2008/09 was £16.219 million. As the chart below shows, 56% came from national taxes and 44% from Council Tax. Council Tax income represents just 11.4% of gross spending on running services.



2008/09

DAY-TO-DAY SPENDING

Did we have anything left over?

We spent slightly more than we got in last year leading to a deficit on our revenue account.

REVENUE ACCOUNT DEFICIT	2008/09 £000
Cost of services	16,749
Income from taxes	16,219
Deficit for the year	530

The deficit for the year was taken from reserves. We also handled significant amounts of cash during the year:

CASH FLOW	2008/09 £000
Cash in hand on 1 Apr 08	7,067
Net decrease in cash	(5,028)
Cash in hand on 31 Mar 09	2,039



CAPITAL SPENDING

What did we spend the money on?

We also spend money on improving and repairing our land and property so we can offer first class public facilities. Substantial amounts of money are also spent on grants to provide more social housing, to improve the quality of existing houses and enable disabled people to live in their own homes. We have to account for this type of spending separately from the day to day running cost of services.

WHAT WE SPENT	2008/09 £000
Disabled facilities and other grants	1,117
Transfer of pumping stations to Severn Trent	623
Improvements to leisure facilities	530
Improvements to public buildings	393
Eagle House project	300
Waterscape project	291
Stafford Leisure Centre fitness equipment	289
Purchase of Riverside Day Nursery	153
Purchase of StreetScene equipment	106
Other capital spending	478
	4,280

HOW DID WE PAY	2008/09 £000
Borrowing	1,660
Grants and contributions	830
Capital reserves	1,790
	4,280

CAPITAL SPENDING

What are we worth?

At the end of each financial year, we draw up a balance sheet that represents how much Stafford's land and buildings are worth, what is owed to others, what others owe us and how much cash we have:

NET ASSETS	31 MARCH 2009 £000
Value of land and property	33,431
Cash investments	20,909
Money owed to Stafford	10,960
Money owed by Stafford	(53,655)
Total assets less total liabilities	8,849
Stafford's reserves	8,849

Stafford's net worth as an organisation is £8.849 million. This is represented by:

RESERVES AND BALANCES	31 MARCH 2009 £000
Capital reserves	26,491
Pensions reserve	(25,720)
Revenue reserves	8,078
	8,849

Stafford has a legal responsibility to maintain a sensible level of working balances and reserves. We think the minimum safe level is £1,000,000.

HOW WE PERFORMED

Outlined below are a number of highlights in achievement which give a flavour of how the Council is performing for the community it serves to demonstrate how we are meeting our targets in our priority areas, that is, Prosperity for All, Cleaner, Greener Safer Communities, Health and Wellbeing and Leading and Delivering for our Community.

Prosperity for all

We achieved the highly acclaimed Beacon Status for our work with our partners in boosting prosperity - at a time when we were in the grip of the worst recession for a generation.

Here are some of the ways the Council has been helping increase prosperity for the whole community during 2008/09.

In 2008/09 we:

- *Were successful in getting £3 million from the government to help with future housing growth*
- *Worked with developers to progress the multi-million pound office and retail development at Tipping Street*
- *Assisted more than 400 businesses and helped create 90 jobs*
- *Helped residents claim an extra £1.1 million of 'Council Tax' and 'Housing' benefits they were entitled to*
- *Opened the new £15million Stafford Leisure Centre*
- *Organised a series of successful events including Stafford Half Marathon and the army homecoming parade*
- *Made improvements to the Riverside Walk in Stafford and the canal towpath area in Westbridge Park, Stone*

HOW WE PERFORMED

Cleaner, greener, safer communities

Climate change and anti-social behaviour are rarely out of the media spotlight and, along with keeping the Borough clean, they form the second of the priorities. In fact the cost of keeping our streets and open spaces clean is around £1 million a year - a large percentage of our revenue budget.

In 2008/09 we:

- *Increased doorstep recycling by almost 50% following the introduction of the new waste collection service*
- *Fined more than 40 people and brought two successful prosecutions for littering and fly-tipping offences.*
- *Beat our three year target to reduce crime by 15%*
- *Opened a shop in Stafford to promote safety in partnership with the police, Primary Care Trust and army, among others.*
- *Retained the 'Green Flag' for Victoria Park - awarded to the best parks in the country*
- *Carried out around 600 inspections of food premises and over 270 Health and Safety audits*
- *Introduced a website which rates food businesses on their hygiene standards*



HOW WE PERFORMED

Health and wellbeing

The problems associated with being overweight have been singled out as one of the biggest dangers to the nations health - especially in young people. We all have a duty to ensure this is tackled. 'Health and Wellbeing' forms the third of the Council's top priorities.

In 2008/09 we:

- *Gave help and advice to more than 1000 residents on housing issues and prevented 128 households becoming homeless.*
- *Helped 120 people with disabilities have their homes adapted*
- *Gave 500 households help to make their homes warmer*
- *Provided free swimming for youngsters aged 16 and under in the school holidays*
- *Had high participation for adult sport and active recreation in the West Midlands*
- *Increased the number of health walks*
- *Inspected 500 premises to make sure they were complying with the smoke free laws*



HOW WE PERFORMED

Leading and delivering

During the unprecedented financial circumstances of the last 12 months people have looked to the Council to lead for the community. Whatever the challenges that lie ahead we will continue to deliver for our community.

In 2008/09 we:

- *Achieved government efficiency savings of more than £600,000*
- *Increased the number of dates for people to pay their council tax or non-domestic rates*
- *Enhanced our website with more than 16,000 transactions carried out online*
- *Rolled out the free bus pass scheme for older residents and people with disabilities*
- *Were ranked in the top ten nationally for burial and cremation services*
- *Dealt with over 50,000 calls - with 80% being dealt with at first point of contact*
- *Made half of all our public buildings accessible to those with disabilities*



STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF FINANCE

As Head of Finance I can confirm that this year's Statement of Accounts has been prepared in line with the Accounting Code of Practice.

The figures in the summary were compiled having regard to proper accounting practices.

Stafford's 2008/09 accounts were audited in August and September by an auditor appointed by the Audit Commission.

A full copy of the audited Statement of Accounts is available online at www.staffordbc.gov.uk

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Head of Finance

MORE INFORMATION

More information or a full copy of the Statement of Accounts can be obtained from

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This document is available in large print, braille, on tape and in the following languages, Arabic, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. If you would like a copy in one of these formats then contact 01785 619 249.