Item 6

#### REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

### 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2006

### REPORT OF HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Portfolio: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2006)

### 1. SUMMARY

This report deals with the statutory requirements set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 for the production and publication of the Annual Statement of Accounts.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 be recommended to Council for approval.

#### 3. DETAIL

The Statement of Accounts is being presented to this Committee so that it can consider the content and recommend that the Statement of Accounts to the Council for Approval. The minutes of this meeting together with their recommendations will be circulated to all Members of Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> June prior to this report being considered by them.

- 3.1 The Account and Audit Regulations 2003 require the Council to approve the Accounts of the Authority by no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> June, prior to their publication and the formal signing off by the District Auditor.
- 3.2 Following the Audit of the Statement of Accounts, which has to be completed by no later than 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006, the District Auditor will submit a formal report on the Audit. If there are any material changes to the Statement of Accounts it will also be necessary for Council to re-approve the document.
- 3.3 Once the Audit has been completed the District Auditor will issue an Audit Certificate, on receipt of that document it is responsibility of the Head of Financial Services to publish the Statement of Accounts. In order to comply with this requirement apart from producing copies of the Statement it will also be placed on the Council's website.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Paragraphs 4.5 and 4.7 detail the outturn financial position for the two principal revenue accounts that the Council maintains:
  - General Fund
  - Housing Revenue Account
- 4.2 Para. 4.8 details the impact on the Council's level of revenue reserves of the outturn position on the revenue accounts.
- 4.3 Para. 4.9 details the outturn financial position on the Council's capital programme for both Housing Revenue Account and General Fund, how the programme has been financed and recommended amendments to the overall capital programme control totals for 2006/2007.
- 4.4 Cabinet Members are kept advised of the likely outturn position with regard to their portfolios' revenue and capital budgets during the financial year by way of quarterly budgetary control reports to Cabinet.

#### 4.5 **GENERAL FUND**

### (a) 2005/2006 Initial Plans

Overall the Council received a relatively small increase in Revenue Support Grant considering the financial pressures facing the Council through pay awards, pension costs, insurance premiums and in meeting the cost of improving key services.

However, the Council was still able to include significant service growth in key priority areas in the 2005/06 Budget largely funded from the additional investment income generated from significant housing land sale capital receipts received by the Council and an increased use of balances to support revenue spending.

The Council approved a budget requirement of £12,410,000 for 2005/2006, which represented a net increase of £410,000 or 3.4% on 2004/2005. However after taking account the higher level of investment income and increased use of balances, the actual increase in spending was around 14%.

As a result, the additional investment was achieved while restricting the increase in Council Tax to 3%.

The Budget assumed a use of balances of £800,000 from the Budget Support Fund.

### (b) 2005/2006 Actual Position

The quarterly reporting of each portfolio's spending performance and probable outturn position to Cabinet and Strategic Working Groups has ensured that effective budgetary control has been achieved during 2005/2006.

The financial outturn position on the General Fund has improved considerably throughout 2005/2006, primarily as a result of the following items:-

- Significant additional subsidy entitlement in respect of Housing and Council Tax Benefits, and better than anticipated recovery of overpaid benefit entitlement.
- An unexpected grant was received from the ODPM in respect of the Local Authority Business Growth Initiative of £147,982 for which the Council has yet to determine a use. In the meantime it has been added directly to the Budget Support fund
- Several rating appeals in respect of the Council's Leisure Centres were resolved with the District Valuer resulting in refunds in excess of £200,000 that were added to the Contingency Fund.
- During the year the turnover of staff employed by the Council, which is normally in the region of 2.5% per annum, was running at a much higher level than expected. As a consequence the impact of vacant posts and delays in filling posts resulted in significant cost savings on the salaries budget.
- The Job Evaluation review was completed and paid.

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Throughout the year regular budgetary control reports have been considered by Cabinet covering all Portfolios and service areas. The outturn figures reflected in this report summarises the position shown in the final budgetary control report to be considered by Cabinet on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

A summary of the outturn on the Council's General Fund is shown in the table below:-

	What we Spent 2005/2006		
	Revised Budget £000	Actual £000	(Underspend) Overspend £000
Portfolio			
Resource Management*	(1,356)	(1,269)	87
Culture and Recreation	4,015	3,913	(102)
Environment	4,643	4,642	(1)
Housing General Fund	1,851	1,809	(42)
Regeneration	2,190	2,009	(181)
Community Safety	755	736	(19)
Supporting People	1,112	444	(668)
Total	13,210	12,284	(926)
(Use of) / contribution to Budget Support Fund	(800)	126	926
Budget Requirement	12,410	12,410	_

<sup>\*</sup> The Resource Management Portfolio shows a credit budget and actual spend as it includes internal recharges to frontline services in respect of support services and significant interest receivable in relation to the Council's short term investments.

The budgets for 2005/2006 have been fully revised to take account of the full reallocation of corporate support services and asset charges fully recharged to service areas.

As a result of the favourable outturn position on the General Fund, the Council has been able make a contribution of £126,000 to the Budget Support Fund as opposed to the budgeted use of balances of £800,000.

A detailed summary of the movements in the levels of all of the Council's Reserves is shown in paragraph 4.8.

# 4.6 REVENUE PROVISIONS INTO 2006/2007

In view of the Council's favourable outturn position, I have made provision in the 2005/2006 accounts to carry forward unused resources amounting to £349,500 into the current year to meet specific one off needs as detailed below:-

	£000
General Fund	
Organisational Training & Development Initiatives	20
Wear Valley ICT Management Fee	9
Replacement Catering Equipment – Green lane	4
Phoenix house – Structural Repairs	18
Local Strategic Partnership- Admin Team	53
Waste Management Strategy	2
Waste Recycling	24
Arts Centre Feasibility Study	20
Open Spaces Need Assessment Project	15
Community Economic Appraisals	25
CCTV Camera Maintenance	3
Housing Benefits Administration Improvement Initiatives	145
Housing Revenue Account	
ICT Software - Decent Homes Initiatives	11
Total Revenue Provision	349

In addition the Council has received grant funding in respect of specific initiatives that remained unspent as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 amounting to £733,100. The Budget Framework already assumes that some of this grant funding will be utilised in 2006/2007, however if the specific programmes do not need all of the funds in the current financial year, the unspent resources will be rolled forward into later years to meet specific requirements of the relevant initiatives.

	£000
0	40
Community Empowerment Fund	12
Homeless Support	32
New Opportunities Fund	8
Planning Delivery Grant	233
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative	64
Sure Start – Local Programme Grant	384
Total Grant Provisions	733

#### 4.7 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

### (a) 2005/2006 Initial Plans

In 2005/2006 further refinements were made by the Government to the way in which subsidy allowances for management and maintenance were derived as part of major methodology changes. As a consequence the Council's management and maintenance subsidy allocations were increased by 20%. This and other changes meant that additional resources of around £1.6 million were made available to the HRA to invest in the management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock.

However, the HRA continues to be in a negative subsidy position, meaning that for 2005/2006 the Council is required to make a payment of £1.9m to the Government to be redistributed nationally to other Housing Authorities.

### (b) 2005/2006 Actual Position

The approved budget for 2005/2006 assumed that the HRA would break even with no requirement for a contribution to or from Balances.

The financial outturn position on the HRA shows a contribution to HRA Balances of £1,190,000.

A summary of the final outturn on the Council's Housing Revenue Account is shown in the table below:

	What We Spent 2005/2006		
	Planned £000	Actual £000	(Underspend) Overspend £000
Income			
House Rents Net of Voids and Bad Debts	20,923	21,199	(276)
Other Rents	816	844	(28)
Government Subsidies	124	124	-
Other Grants, Contributions and Charges	1,700	1,734	(34)
Investment Income	119	145	(26)
Extraordinary Items	-	740	(740)
Total Income	23,682	24,786	(1,104)
Expenditure			
Management Costs	8,063	7,944	(119)
Maintenance Costs	5,281	5,486	205
Capital Financing	6,116	6,147	31
Revenue Contribution to Capital	1,521	1,368	(153)
Negative Subsidy Payable	1,871	1,896	25
Statutory Contributions to General Fund	830	755	(75)
Total Expenditure	23,682	23,596	(86)

(1,190)

The contribution to HRA balances is made up of the reimbursement of LSVT costs totalling £740,000 from Sunderland Housing Group and a surplus of income over expenditure on the HRA of £450,000.

This surplus was largely as a result of higher than estimated rent income as a result of a downturn in the level of RTB sales and a reduced revenue contribution to finance the capital programme.

#### 4.8 RESERVES

The Budget Framework Report, presented to Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2006 considered in detail the anticipated level of reserves available to the Council at the year-end. That report set out the purpose for which reserves were being held and, where appropriate, established prudent and robust guidance on the level of balances that should be maintained.

The report estimated a total level of reserves at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 of £10.68m. The following statement sets out the actual position as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 which shows an increase in the overall level of resources available to the Council of £1,129,000, compared to those previously reported in March. This is mainly attributable to the significant transfers to balances from the HRA and General Fund as outlined in paragraphs. 4.5 and 4.7

	Balances at		
	31/3/2005	31/3/2006	
	£000	£000	
General Fund			
Earmarked Reserves			
Budget Support Fund	1,622	1,721	
Insurance Fund	1,099	1,237	
Economic Development Fund	267	183	
Asset Management Fund	502	502	
Private Sector Housing Fund	203	203	
Training Services Fund	386	458	
Youth Development Fund	151	109	
MRP (Debt Repayment) Fund	706	456	
Building Control Fund	-	21	
Other Earmarked Funds	63	51	
	4,999	4,941	
Non-Earmarked Reserves	·		
General Reserves	2,240	2,240	
Housing Revenue Account			
HRA Working Balance	3,460	4,647	
Total Reserves	10,699	11,828	

The purposes for which the main reserves are held are detailed below:

#### **Budget Support Fund**

This was set up to provide support to the General Fund to allow spending levels to be adjusted over the medium term. The Medium Term Financial Plan 2006-2009 [MTFP] anticipates that £1.5m of this fund will be used over the next three years.

#### Insurance Fund

Established to cover the Council's self-insured risks. Whilst the revised balance will fall as claims continue to be met, the current level of funding is regarded as satisfactory in the medium term.

# **Economic Development Fund**

Set up to provide incentives to industry, whilst the Fund has lasted much longer than initially anticipated. There are ongoing commitments against the fund and it is expected that as a consequence of no external grant funding being available to support the incentives programme the fund has a very limited future life.

### Training and Employment Services

This Fund is used to support the Council's training schemes, which have provided training opportunities to thousands of people over many years.

# Asset Management Fund

This fund is available to provide support to meet the Council's commitments under the Asset Management Plan. The MTFP] anticipates that £0.3m of this fund will be used over the next three years.

### **Private Sector Housing Fund**

Established some years ago, when Housing Association loans were repaid, to provide support to private sector housing regeneration initiatives. ] The MTFP anticipates that £0.1m of this fund will be used over the next three years.

### Youth Development Fund

This Fund is used to support projects aimed at developing the skills and talents of young people in Sedgefield Borough. This will provide significant additional funds to support 'KoolKash' initiatives and is in line with the outcome from the review of Children and Young People.

### Other Earmarked Funds

This covers a range of small balances, and funds which are used for technical accounting purposes.

#### General Reserve

The balance on this reserve represents around 20% of net revenue spending, which is well above the minimum level advised by the Audit Commission of 5%. However, the Council has always held a significant reserve reflecting its tradition of being an active Council, prepared to

respond to new initiatives and it considers the level of balances to be adequate and appropriate for this authority and a balance of £2m is regarded as a target to be maintained in the medium term.

# Housing Revenue Account

Balances are also in a reasonably healthy state and have been built up over the last few years primarily as a result of buoyant capital receipts being generated, which have been used to finance capital expenditure rather than using revenue resources. The MTFP anticipates that £1.5m will be used over the next three years to support the capital programme so that the Council achieves its decent homes target.

#### Collection Fund

The Council, as billing authority, maintains the Collection Fund accounts in respect of all the precepting authorities within Sedgefield Borough. Surpluses and / or losses on the Fund have to be used to support future Council Tax bills. As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 there was an accumulated surplus on the Fund of £758,000, of which £655,000 will be paid over to the precepting authorities in 2006-2007. Of the remaining balance and in anticipation of a final outturn surplus in excess of that at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, Sedgefield Borough Council utilised £200,000 to fix its own level of Council Tax in 2006/2007.

#### 4.9 CAPITAL INVESTMENT & FINANCE

### (a) Capital Investment in Sedgefield Borough 2005/2006

In preparing the Council's Capital Budgets for 2005/2006, account had to be taken of the resources available to the Council in the form of Government grants and allocations such as the Major Repairs Allowance, Supported Borrowing Approvals and the Council's own capital resources such as usable capital receipts, revenue contributions and accumulated reserves.

The approved net spending target for 2005/2006 was subsequently set at £15.8 million with £3.8 million set aside for General Fund Services, £7.0 million for Council Housing Services and £5.0 million for Major Regeneration Initiatives to be funded from Housing Land Capital Receipts.

The spending targets were revised during the year to reflect outstanding commitments carried forward from 2004/2005, the approved use of capital contingencies and the reduction in the Major Regeneration allocation to reflect delays in receiving capital receipts from land sales.

Following these amendments, the revised net spending approval was set at £15.293m, with £7.300m set aside for Council Housing Services, £4.939m for General Fund Services and £3.054m for Major Regeneration Initiatives.

Taking into account additional external funding secured during the year, the total gross spending target was £20.309m with £9.955m for General Fund, £7.300m for Council Housing and £3.054m for Major Regeneration Initiatives.

The figures in the tables below detail the actual gross and net capital expenditure in 2005/06 in respect of the General Fund and Council Housing Programmes. The net spend shown is after the deduction of any external capital grants and contributions received during the year and therefore represents the expenditure to be financed from the Council's own resources and Government allocations built into the base budget such as the Major Repairs Allowance and Supported Borrowing Allocations.

### (b) General Fund Services

The Programme for 2005/2006 and actual net spend (after grants and capital contributions) can be summarised as follows:-

	Planned Net Spend	Actual Gross Spend*	Less Capital Grants and Contributions	Actual Net Spend
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Resource Management				
Computing and E-Government	1,323	807	(279)	528
Offices and Depots	175	195	-	195
Vehicles and Equipment	132	116	-	116
Culture and Recreation				
Leisure Centres	673	633	(1)	632
Gymnastics Centre	-	1,083	(1,083)	-
Regeneration	150	853	(022)	31
Spennymoor Town Centre Neighbourhood Regeneration	520	405	(822) (140)	265
Other Schemes	224	118	(43)	75
Curer Concines	22-7	110	(40)	70
Economic Development	359	324	(250)	74
Non- HRA Housing				
Improvement Grants	1,000	1,045	(243)	802
Other Private Sector Housing	1,000	652	(650)	2
Curer i rivate decier riodaling		002	(000)	_
Community Safety	193	51	-	51
Environment	120	120	(1)	119
Supporting People				
Sure Start Centre	_	615	(615)	_
Other Initiatives	70	56	-	56
Major Regeneration Initiatives	3,054	809	(19)	790
TOTAL	7,993	7,882	(4,146)	3,736

<sup>\*</sup> Net of deminimus spend transferred to Revenue.

The underspend can be attributed to a number of reasons:-

- Where capital schemes are funded through external agencies, such as the

Single Capital Pot these resources must be spent first as in most instances if the resources are not defrayed within the year they have to be repaid.

- Delays in the implementation of the Major Regeneration Initiatives Programme pending the approval by Council of the overall Borough Regeneration Master Plan.
- Late Approval from the Government Office meant a later than anticipated start on the construction of the two Sure Start Centres.
- Delays in the completion of a number of schemes on the Regeneration and Economic Development Capital Programme mainly in respect of Spennymoor Town Centre, Neighbourhood Renewal and Aycliffe Industrial Park
- A number of ICT capital projects were delayed or did not go ahead as planned during the year

The Council has again been successful in securing additional grants and contributions from external sources to support its capital investment. The amounts to be financed from the Council's own resources were therefore lower than anticipated.

# c) Housing Services

The Housing Investment Programme (H.I.P.) provides, in the main, for the revitalisation of the Council's dwellings and associated estates. The significant areas of the Programme in 2005/2006 were all designed to help the Council achieve the Government's Decent Homes standard.

The HRA programmed spend for 2005/2006 is shown below:-

	Planned Net Spend £000	Actual Gross Spend* £000	Less Capital Grants and Contributions £000	Actual Net Spend £000
Council Dwellings				
Tenant led improvements	2,380	2,573	-	2,573
Kitchen Units	350	451	-	451
Structural Repairs	460	331	-	331
External Fabric Replacement	550	512	-	512
Central Heating & Insulation works	1,415	1,401	-	1,401
PVCU Doors / External Joinery	200	295	-	295
Re-roofing	1,300	1,122	(26)	1,096
Other Works to Council houses	255	60	-	60
Other Works				
Disabled Persons Adaptations	100	117	-	117
Infrastructure Works	61	120	-	120
Council Shops	85	195	-	195
Sheltered Housing Schemes	144	34	-	34
Total Housing Capital Spend	7,300	7,211	(26)	7,185

<sup>\*</sup> Net of deminimus spend transferred to revenue

A report has recently been considered by Cabinet to align available housing capital resources to spending programmes in order to achieve the decent homes targets by 2011/12.

Overall, the Council therefore spent £15.093m gross on the 2005/06 Capital Programme against a gross spending target of £20.309m. The financing of the capital programme outturn is detailed in (d) below:-

### (d) Capital Financing in 2005/2006

The following table sets out how the 2005/2006 Capital Programme was financed:-

	£000
Expenditure to Finance	
General Fund	7,882
HRA	7,211
	15,093
Financed By	
Major Repairs Allowance (MRA)	5,038
Capital Receipts	3,840
Capital Grants	2,139
Capital Contributions	2,034
Direct Revenue Financing	1,368
Supported Capital Expenditure	674
	15,093

# (e) Capital Programme – Carry Forward to 2006/2007

The following table highlights the outstanding commitments on each portfolio's capital programme, which will need to be carried forward into 2006/2007.

These authorised carry-forward allocations are in addition to the already approved capital allocations for 2006/2007 and the 2006/2007 Capital Programme will need to be adjusted accordingly:-

Portfolio/Capital Programme	Underspend (Overspend)*	Commitments Carry Forward To 2006/2007
	£000	£000
ICT	(642)	635
Green Lane	19	-
Chilton depot	(16)	16
Culture and Recreation	(48)	48
Environment	(1)	-
Regeneration	(523)	518
Economic Development	(285)	281
Community Safety	(142)	142
Supporting People	(14)	14
Housing General Fund	29	-
Major Regeneration Initiative	(2,264)	401
Housing Revenue Account	64	-
Total	(3,823)	2,055

<sup>\*</sup>The underspend / overspend figures shown are net of any deminimus capital spend transferred to revenue and any capital grants and contributions not already built into the 2005/06 Base budget

### (f) Usable Capital Receipts

As a consequence of the underspend in the 2005/2006 Capital Programme and the buoyant level of Capital Receipts generated, the Council has Usable Capital Receipts available to finance future capital works, amounting to £15.151m as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. In accordance with decisions taken by Council in July 2004 £12.824m of these Capital Receipts are earmarked specifically for regeneration schemes. The balance of £2.327m is available to support the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account capital programmes

#### 5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no further resource implications arising from this report.

#### 6. CONSULTATIONS

Comprehensive consultation has previously been held during the construction of the 2005/2006 Budget Framework. This report does not contain any proposals or recommendations requiring further consultation.

### 7. OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

# 7.1 Links to Corporate Objectives/Values

The Council's Corporate Objectives and Values have guided the preparation of the 2005/06 Budget Framework throughout. Resource availability has been fully reassessed and directed to assist in achieving the Council's key priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan. Particular emphasis has been placed on the following Corporate Values:-

- Be responsible with and accountable for public finances.
- Consult with service users, customers and partners.

### 7.2 Risk Management

There has been no further risks identified other than those highlighted in the report to Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2005.

### 7.3 **Health and Safety**

No additional implications have been identified.

### 7.4 Equality and Diversity

No material considerations have been identified.

### 7.5 **Legal and Constitutional**

The Budget Framework for 2005/06 was prepared in accordance with the Council's Constitution. No other legal or constitutional implications have been identified.

### 8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

Consultation and engagement with Overview and Scrutiny Committees has previously been held in development and review of the 2005/2006 Budget Framework.

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Ward: Not Ward specific

Key Decision: Not Ward specific Validation

**Background Papers:** ~ Report to Special Council 25<sup>th</sup> February 2005 – Budget Framework 2005/2006.

- ~ Report to Council 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005- Statement of Accounts 2004-2005
- ~ Reports to Cabinet 15<sup>th</sup> September 2005- Revenue & Capital Budgetary Control Report Position at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2005
- ~ Reports to Cabinet 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005- Revenue & Capital Budgetary Control Report Position at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005
- ~ Reports to Cabinet 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2006- Revenue & Capital Budgetary Control Report Position at 31st December 2005
- ~ Reports to Cabinet 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006- Revenue & Capital Budgetary Control Report Outturn Position at 31st March 2006

# **Examination by Statutory Officers:**

		Yes	Not Applicable
1.	The report has been examined by the Council's Head of the Paid Service or his representative.		✓
2.	The content has been examined by the Council's S.151 Officer or his representative.	✓	
3.	The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative.		<b>✓</b>
4.	Management Team has approved the report.		<b>√</b>

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