

**ABERDEEN CITY & SHIRE
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AUTHORITY**

Date: 17 June 2009

Title : SDPA Draft Statement of Accounts 2008/09

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Strategic Development Planning Authority (SDPA) to note the outturn position of the Authority as at March 2009 and to approve the draft Statement of Accounts for 2008/09.

2 Background

2.1 The budget for the SDPA was initially considered as part of the Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Council overall budget proposal with a contribution of 50% of the costs to be made by each partner Council.

2.2 The SDPA has now been considered to exist as a separate entity following the acceptance of the Minute of Agreement by the SDPA in late June 2008. The attached Statements will therefore cover only the activities of the Authority for a part year. On the understanding that no significant activity took place giving rise to a financial commitment in the intervening days it has been assumed that the SDPA effectively began operating as a separate entity from 1 July 2008. The Statements have been prepared on this basis.

3 Proposal

3.1 The draft Statements for 2008/09 are attached as Appendix 1 to this report and it should be noted that these are issued subject to audit.

3.2 The SDPA will recall that there was an outstanding issue concerning the VAT status of the Authority. I am happy to report that this has recently been resolved with the help of officers from HM Revenues and Customs. The activities of the Authority will all fall within the VAT registration of Aberdeenshire Council.

3.3 The SDPA had earlier agreed to consider a budget monitoring report at each meeting. I have attached as appendix 2 a copy of the budget monitoring report for the period to 31 March 2009. This position formed the basis for the production of the draft Statements. Budget monitoring statements will be presented to each meeting of the SDPA.

3.4 The outturn position of the Authority for the year is shown on page 7 of the Statements. This indicates a surplus for the period of £194,000. A significant element of this is an underspend of an additional grant of £120,000 from the Scottish Government in respect of first year start-up and exceptional costs. The Scottish Government have agreed that the unspent balance of this grant can be carried forward and utilised for remaining costs arising in 2009/10.

3.5 The cost of staff employed is also less than budgeted and this has given rise to further significant element of the overall underspend. Members will be aware that it took some time for all staff posts to be filled and this has given rise to a further significant underspend. Members will be aware that the staff are now at full complement and we do not anticipate an underspend in this area during 2009/10.

4 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the SDPA:

- a) Notes the outturn position as at 31 March 2009
- b) Approves the unaudited Statements for issue to Audit Scotland;

Charles Armstrong
Treasurer

Report prepared by: Tom Buchan, Principal Accountant, Aberdeenshire Council