

ANGUS COUNCIL – 19 SEPTEMBER 2002

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS – 2001/02 – AUDIT THEREOF

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ABSTRACT

This report is to inform Members that an Audit Certificate has now been issued in respect of the Council's 2001/02 Accounts.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to note that Angus Council met the deadline of submitting its Accounts by the due date of 30 June 2002 and that the External Auditor issued his unqualified Audit Certificate on 30 August 2002 a month in advance of the target date of 30 September.

2. BACKGROUND

The Council produces Accounts for each financial year and these are subject to external audit.

3. 2001/02 ACCOUNTS

The Accounts for 2001/02 were complete by the required date of 30 June 2002 and duly submitted for Audit.

The Council's external auditors were Audit Scotland, and a team reporting to the Chief Auditor, Peter Tait, were on site through the summer months.

The audit was complete on 30 August 2002 and a report by the Auditor was issued on that date indicating that in his opinion the accounts "present fairly the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2002 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended."

As usual, at the conclusion of an audit, the Auditor will be making a fuller report to the Council and this Report is expected to be available for the meeting on 7 November 2002. The Annual Report and Accounts document is also expected to be available for the 7 November meeting.

The Auditor has also issued a report certifying that the DSO's have achieved the required financial objective. This report will be included in the separate DSO Annual Report and Accounts to be published shortly.

A copy of the audited statements has been placed in the Members' Lounge.

It is clear that the Accounts have been produced to a high standard within a relatively short time scale. This demonstrates a committed partnership approach by the Council and the External Auditor to the production of meaningful timely financial information and also indicates a high standard of financial stewardship within the Council.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Once again it is acknowledged that the timely production of accounts and completion of the audit is due to a great deal of committed work. Appreciation is thus expressed to colleagues and to the Chief Auditor, Peter Tait and his staff.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications pertaining to this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications pertaining to this report.

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive and the Director of Law and Administration have been consulted on the contents of this report.

D.S. SAWERS
Director of Finance

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Sections 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

JC/AD
11 September 2002