

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee was held on 24 September 2008.

PRESENT: Councillor Clark (Chair), Councillors Brunton, McPartland, Purvis, Rehman and Mrs H Pearson.

OFFICIALS: B Baldam, J Bennington, C Davies, R Painter and P Slocombe.

**** PRESENT BY INVITATION:** Mr D Wilkinson, Deloitte and Touche LLP, External Audit
G Gallagher (Chief Accountant, Mouchel Business Services).

**** PRESENT AS AN OBSERVER:** Councillor N J Walker (Executive Member for Resources).

**** AN APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE** was submitted on behalf of Councillor Elder and confirmation was given that the respective Officers would respond in writing to a list of written questions received from Councillor Elder relating to the Statement of Accounts 2007/2008 and School Governing Bodies.

** DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item / Nature of Interest
Councillor Brunton	Personal and Non Prejudicial	Any matters relating to Teesside Pension Fund, Levick Trust, Dial a Ride Middlesbrough Limited, Brian Clough Memorial Trust Fund, Hustler Trust (2006-2007) – Member.
Councillor Rehman	Personal and Non Prejudicial	Any matters relating to Teesside Pension Fund – member of Teesside Pension Fund and Investment Panel.
Councillor McPartland	Personal and Non Prejudicial	Any matters relating to Brian Clough Memorial Trust Fund – Chairman of Trust Fund.

** MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Affairs Committee held on 28 August 2008 were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2007/2008

The Director of Resources submitted a report regarding the Middlesbrough Council Statement of Accounts 2007/2008 which presented the overall financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2008 in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and the Statutory Accounts and Audit regulations. The Statement of Recommended Practice, which was updated annually, supported the accounting framework and specified the accounting principles and practices required to prepare a Statement of Accounts, which presented fairly the position of a local authority.

The report outlined the main components of the Accounts as follows:-

Appendix A – Income and Expenditure Account
Appendix B – Statement of Movement on the General Fund Balance
Appendix C – Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses
Appendix D – Balance Sheet
Appendix E – Cash Flow Statement.

Given the uncertainty of current financial markets and inflation the importance of being clear in a statement as to the financial position of a local authority and the specific provisions made of resources was acknowledged.

The overall accounts were shown to be in a sound financial position for the Council with the level of balances being in line with the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. The application of sound financial management across all services was reflected in the final outturn for the year with a net saving compared to budget of £485,000 (0%).

It was noted that a combined Annual Report/Summary of Accounts had been produced for 2007/2008 and included performance information and summary financial data which was to be published in the Middlesbrough News.

In response to a query from a Member for more detailed breakdown of information in relation to education services the Director of Resources confirmed that such information would be forwarded direct to the Member concerned.

The Chair welcomed Mr David Wilkinson (Deloitte and Touche LLP) who presented a report which summarised the principal matters that had arisen from the audit of the Council's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2008 and on the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the external audit's assessment and conclusion in terms of the Council's financial standing which was regarded as being satisfactory. It was confirmed that there were no major issues raised and significant progress had been made on the production of the 2007/2008 Statement of Accounts. The draft and final Statements had been produced well within the timetable and the quality of the working papers had again improved.

Members were advised that the terminology of satisfactory in this context was regarded as one of the strongest recommendations that could be gained at this stage of the process.

The Committee extended thanks to all concerned for their hard work, which had resulted in such a positive report.

ORDERED that the final 2007/2008 Statement of Accounts be approved.

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES – LA SCHOOL GOVERNORS – APPOINTMENTS

A report of the Head of Commissioning and Resources was presented regarding vacancies for Local Authority appointed School Governors which had arisen as a result of resignations, the expiry of terms of office or the removal of Governors due to non-attendance.

The nominations received for such vacancies were outlined in Appendix 1 of the report submitted and in an updated report circulated at the meeting.

It was noted that there were currently 8 vacancies out of a total of 142 Governorships for LA representatives, which equated to 5.6%.

ORDERED as follows: -

1. That the following appointments be approved for a four-year term of office:-

<u>School</u>	<u>Governor</u>
Archibald Primary	Mrs A Kay (w.e.f. 26.01.09)

Caldicotes Primary	Mrs M Patterson (w.e.f. 25.09.08)
Lingfield Primary	Mrs J McArthur (w.e.f. 26.01.09)
Marion Grove Primary	Councillor Kerr (w.e.f. 26.01.09)
Whinney Banks Primary	Mrs K Campbell (w.e.f. 26.01.09 subject to agreement)
Acklam Grange Secondary	Mrs S Bates (w.e.f. 25.09.08)

2. That consideration of the appointment of Local Authority appointed School Governors be deferred in respect of the following pending further clarification of the current situation and/or the receipt of any subsequent nominations:-

Beechwood Primary School
Captain Cook Primary School
Corpus Christi RC Primary School
Rose Wood Primary School
Thorntree Primary School
The Newlands FCJ
Tollesby School