

 EXECUTIVE 10 June 2009		Agenda Item No.
Title	Final Accounts 2008/09	
For further information about this report please contact	Marcus Miskinis Tel: 01926 456804 marcus.miskinis@warwickdc.gov.uk	
Service Area	Finance	
Wards of the District directly affected	None	
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	N/A	
Background Papers	22 October 2007: Fees and Charges 2008/09 10 December 2007: Approval of General Fund Base Estimates 2007/08 Revised and 2008/09 Estimates Approval of Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2007/08 Revised and 2008/09 Base Estimates 11 February 2008: Budget 2008/09 and Council Tax – Revenue and Capital Housing Rents 2008/09 15 October 2008: Fees and Charges 2009/10 3 December 2008: Approval of General Fund Base Estimates 2008/09 Revised and 2009/10 Estimates Approval of Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2008/09 Revised and 2009/10 Base Estimates	
Contrary to the policy framework:	No	
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No	
Key Decision?	Yes	
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	Yes Ref 194	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
With regard to officer approval all reports <u>must</u> be approved by the report authors relevant director, Finance, Legal Services and the relevant Portfolio Holder(s).		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Relevant Director	28.05.2009	Andy Jones
Chief Executive	28.05.2009	Chris Elliott
CMT	28.05.2009	
Section 151 Officer	28.05.2009	Mike Snow
Legal	28.05.2009	Peter Oliver
Finance	n/a	Finance report
Portfolio Holder(s)		Cllr Doody, Cllr Mobbs
Consultation Undertaken		
None		
Final Decision?		Yes
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1 SUMMARY

1.1 The report provides details of the Council's final account position for the year ended 31st March 2009. The highlights from the accounts are:

- The General Fund revenue account shows a surplus of £1.3m over the Estimates after allowing for a further £1.3m of planned expenditure to be carried forward to 2009/10. Of this surplus £0.3m relates to additional interest received and £0.4m to additional Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) grant.
- General Fund Capital Programme underspent by £2m. Of this, £690,000 relates to the Brunswick Hub, Althorpe Enterprise & Innovation Centre and Court Street Creative Arches projects which have suffered various delays meaning that completion of these projects will now occur in 2009/10.
- The Council Tax collection rate was 98.8% and 98.5% for Business Rates, both of which are excellent.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (a) the Capital Programme 2009/10 be increased by £1,150,500 for Housing Investment Programme and £1,814,500 for Other Services Capital schemes, being slippage for items not spent from the 2008/09 Programme, and reduced by £12,200 for Other Services in respect of work carried out in 2008/09 which was brought forward from 2009/10 (paragraph 7.4).
- (b) The requests to carry £1,315,800 earmarked balances forward to 2009/10 be approved (paragraph 8.11 and Appendix 'F');

- (c) the resulting surplus of the above decisions, amounting to £1,278,345 be appropriated:

£20,000 for the Chandos Street Development;
£34,300 for the Court Street Creative Arches project;
£46,300 to the Capital Investment Reserve;
£100,000 to the 2009/10 Contingency budget;
£100,000 to the Equipment Renewal Reserve;
£100,000 to the General Fund Early Retirement Reserve; and
£877,745 to the General Fund Balance for further consideration as part of the 2010/11 budget setting (paragraph 9.1).

3 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The above recommendations will allow the accounts for the financial year 2008/09 to be closed on time and have been used as the basis for drafting the Statement of Accounts. The resultant decisions will be fed into the Financial Strategy.
- 3.2 The Report is structured in the following format:

Section 6 - Background
Section 7 - Capital Expenditure
Section 8 - General Fund Revenue Expenditure
Section 9 - Treatment of General Fund Surplus
Section 10 - Reserves and Provisions
Section 11 - Housing Revenue Account
Section 12 - Housing Repairs and Major Repairs Allowance
Section 13 - Collection Fund
Section 14 – Conclusion

Appendix A - Capital Expenditure
Appendix B - Capital Funding
Appendix C - Capital Expenditure Reasons for Major Variations
Appendix D - Prudential Indicators
Appendix E - General Fund Expenditure
Appendix F - Earmarked Reserves Requests
Appendix G - Reserves and Provisions
Appendix H - Housing Revenue Account
Appendix I - Housing Repairs and Major Repairs Allowance
Appendix J - Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account
Appendix K - Collection Fund Statistics
Appendix L - Glossary of Terms

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The report is a statement of fact. However, how the outcomes might be treated can be dealt with in a variety of ways, mainly the alternatives are not to allow any, or only some of the earmarked reserve requests and to allow the General Fund balance to vary from the £2.9m level, along with how the 2008/09 surplus is allocated.

5 BUDGETARY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

- 5.1 The Accounts 2008/09 is a historic account of the financial performance of that year and, therefore, identifies how well, or otherwise, the Budget and Policy frameworks have been complied with.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The accounts have been compiled so as to comply with the appropriate accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Accounting in Great Britain 2008.
- 6.2 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 the Council's Statement of Accounts needs to be approved within 3 months of the close of the financial year (i.e. 30th June).
- 6.3 The Statement of Accounts is currently being prepared. This is due to be considered by Council on 29th June 2009. Regulations prohibit authority for the approval of the Statement of Accounts being delegated to the Executive or an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.4 An advertisement will be placed in local newspapers in July informing electors of their rights to inspect the accounts during July and August and to question the auditor about those accounts in late August (the Appointed Day – date still to be decided by the Audit Commission).
- 6.5 This is a complex report that brings together details of all of the Council's income and expenditure in 2008/09.

7 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

- 7.1 The Council's plans for capital expenditure in 2008/09 totalled over £14.4m as set out below. The capital programme has been financed in accordance with that approved in the 2008/09 Treasury Management Strategy Document. The overall position is summarised below and in Appendix A:

TABLE A: Capital Expenditure Summary 2008/09

	Revised 2008/09 £'000	Actual 2008/09 £'000	Variation 2008/09 £'000
Housing Investment Programme	7,961	6,793	(1,168)
Other Services	6,470	4,470	(2,000)
TOTAL	14,431	11,263	(3,168)

- 7.2 Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C' compare actual capital expenditure for the year with revised budgets, sources of capital financing and details variances.

7.3 **Variations of individual Capital Schemes**

Appendix 'C' details the explanations for the variance in expenditure from the revised Capital Budget. In terms of expenditure, the most significant variations in the General Fund Capital Programme were in respect of:

- The Brunswick Hub project (-£261,000) and the refurbishment of the Railway Arches off Court Street (-£352,300), both projects have suffered delays which has resulted in completion now being in 2009/10;
- The St John's Brook Flood Alleviation project (-£201,400) has also slipped to 2009/10 due to a delay whilst investigations are carried out into a joint scheme with Coventry Road car park;
- Phase 2 of the Document Management Project is now complete and it has been possible to return £109,300 to the Council's general capital resources as a result of an underspend on the project;
- The most significant variation in the Housing Investment Programme occurred on Housing Association Schemes where, due to lack of schemes going ahead, slippage of £374,900 to 2009/10 has occurred;
- Other significant variations were Decent Homes Grants (-£336,000) and Renovation Grants (-£220,000). This expenditure is funded by specific Government grants and due to a number of reasons e.g. slow take up, lack of schemes etc. it has not been possible to fully expend the grant received during the year. Therefore the balance needs to be slipped to 2009/10 to augment that year's programme as it is not possible to utilise these grants on other capital projects.

7.4 Appendix 'C' identifies £1,150,500 in respect Housing Investment Programme schemes not completed in 2008/09 and £1,814,500 for Other Capital schemes. Slippage of these budgets to 2009/10 is being requested. In addition £12,200 Other Services' schemes budgeted for 2009/10 commenced in 2008/09; the 2009/10 budget should be reduced in respect of this expenditure. The 2009/10 Programmes need to be varied accordingly to accommodate these areas of work, with slippage of the expenditure on the relevant schemes and associated financing.

7.5 **Variations in Sources of Capital Funding**

There have been significant variations between the revised estimate and the actual in the various resources utilised to finance the capital programmes as shown in Appendix 'B'.

7.6 Slippage in the Housing Landlord part of the Housing Investment Programme has resulted in an increased Housing Repairs Account balance to be carried forward to 2009/10. In addition, a lack of Housing Association schemes to buy into as well as slippage in the Environmental Health Improvement Grants programmes has also resulted in increased capital receipts and grants being carried forward to 2009/10.

7.7 The financing of the revised General Fund capital programme envisaged the use of the Council's set aside capital receipts which had been freed up as a result of it being debt free at 1st April 2004. Due to slippage in the programme, it was not necessary to use all of these receipts and £1,083,769 has been carried forward to 2009/10.

7.8 Due to slippage within the General Fund Capital Programme, mainly concerning the Advantage West Midlands (AWM) grant funded projects such as the Business Unit

Incubators project (AIEC), Brunswick Hub and the Refurbishment of Court Street Railway Arches (CUP) the amount of funding required from external contributions has decreased by £592,000. Other items of slippage which were to have been funded either wholly or in part by external contributions included Planning Delivery Grant projects and it has not been necessary to make the planned contribution of £186,000 from the Capital Investment Reserve.

- 7.9 Appendix 'B' also shows the Capital funding balances held by the Council as at 31st March 2009 totalling £16.268m. Once financing of capital slippage (see 7.4 above) has been allowed for, there is £13.3m available to finance the future Capital Programme, which is £1.04m greater than the revised estimates. Much of this is already committed towards future Capital Programmes. The table below illustrates the increase in General Fund Capital Resources between the revised and actual:

Table 'B': General Fund Capital Programme Resources

	Estimated £000	Actual £000
Capital Resources 1 April 2008	7,397	7,397
Additions in the year	3,138	2,904
Funding of Capital Programme	(6,427)	(4,471)
Capital Resources 31 March 2009	4,108	5,830

Once the General Fund capital slippage of £1.8m is taken into account, there is £4m available for schemes from 2009/10.

7.10 **The Prudential Indicators**

The Prudential Capital Finance system came into force on 1st April 2004. Local Authorities are required to produce and report on a set of Prudential Indicators. The 2008/09 indicators are included within Appendix 'D', along with relevant explanations.

8 GENERAL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT

- 8.1 The Council's budget plans were formulated during the period August 2007 to February 2008 when the executive considered reports on:

- (a) budget prospects;
- (b) service plans;
- (c) proposed levels of fees and charges;
- (d) capital programme;
- (e) detailed revenue estimates; and
- (f) identification of new and expanded priorities for services.

- 8.2 Plans were finalised on 21st February 2008 when the Council approved total estimated net expenditure of £17,523,700 and set a band D council tax for District purposes of £138.03. Additional Local Authorities Business Growth Incentives Grant (LAGBI) of £348,646 and Area Based Grant of £22,500 increased resources available and net expenditure to £17,894,846.

- 8.3 The revenue accounts relating to 2008/09 have now been completed.
- 8.4 Details of actual net expenditure for General Fund services are summarised in Appendix 'E', together with comparisons with the Council's revised estimates for the year and explanations of the major variations.
- 8.5 A summary of the General Fund performance for 2008/09 is as follows:

TABLE 'C': General Fund 2008/09

	See Para.	Revised Estimate £'000	Actual £'000	Variance £'000
Net Cost of General Fund Services	8.6	21,695	18,809	(2,886)
Add: Earmarked Reserves	8.11	-	1,316	1,316
Adjusted Cost of General Fund Services		21,695	20,125	(1,570)
Financing Adjustments				
Replacement of Notional with Actual Cost of Capital				
- Less Capital Charges in Service Estimates	8.13	(6,698)	(4,106)	2,592
- Add Loan Repayments, Revenue Contributions and Interest Paid		(210)	(210)	-
Revenue Contributions to Capital	8.14	4,201	3,612	(589)
Contributions to / (from) Reserves	8.15	(1,228)	(1,002)	226
Net External Investment Interest Received	8.16	(1,156)	(1,413)	(257)
FRS 17 Pensions Adjustment	8.17	(798)	(328)	470
Government Grants Deferred Written-out	8.18	2,393	592	(1,801)
Contribution to / (from) General Fund		(653)	(653)	-
Total Financing Adjustments		(4,149)	(3,508)	641
Net Expenditure for District Purposes		17,546	16,617	(929)
Less Financing from Council Tax, RSG and NNDR		(17,523)	(17,523)	-
Area Based Grant		(23)	(23)	-
LABGI Grant	8.19	-	(349)	(349)
Deficit / (Surplus) for Year	8.20	-	(1,278)	(1,278)

- 8.6 The first row of Table C, above, shows that the net cost of providing the General Fund Services was £18.8m against a budget of £21.7m, an underspending of £2.9m. The expenditure is broken down over Services within Appendix 'E'. A summary of the variations is shown below and explained in later paragraphs:

TABLE 'D': General Fund Service Variations 2008/09

	£'000	£'000
Revenue Effects of Income / Expenditure Variations		
- Other Items	(626)	(626)
Revenue Effects of Capital Programme and Reserve Changes		
- Capital Financing Charges	(2,592)	
- Items of Slippage: Earmarked Reserve Requests	(1,316)	
- Government Grants - Deferred	1,801	
- FRS 17 Pension Adjustments	(470)	
- Revenue Contributions to Capital	543	
- Revenue Expenditure financed from Reserves - net change	(226)	(2,260)
Total Variation from Revised Estimates		(2,886)

This shows that most of the £2.9m underspend on the provision of services is compensated by financing adjustments and does not relate directly to savings in spending.

8.7 Other Items

Other items include a large variety of under- and overspendings. These are detailed against individual services in Appendix 'E'. Some of the notable variations are:

- reduced salary costs (-£161,000);
- additional recycling credits (-£86,000);
- increased income from fees and charges (-£99,000) – mainly off-street car parking (-£88,000), leisure centres (-£46,000) and Revenues (-£31,000) offset by reduced Building Control fee income (+£78,000);
- reduced costs (-£66,000) and increased income (-£63,000) on Critical Ordinary Watercourses' Maintenance;
- the balance of the contingency budget not used (-£131,000);
- development of the Community Taxi Scheme not proceeded with (-£50,000);
- reduced costs of electricity, gas and NNDR (-£88,000);
- increased provision for bad debts (+£84,000);
- prior year audit adjustments in respect of Housing Benefits (+£119,000).

8.8 The Assisted Travel Scheme came in under budget by £248,000 of which £162,400 relates to outstanding claims in respect of 2007/08. However, Stagecoach, as part of a national campaign, has mounted judicial challenges concerning the level of reimbursement it has received. Accordingly, based on the experience gained, this sum has been accrued in the 2008/09 accounts. In addition, the request to earmark the contingency budget of £200,000 is included in Appendix 'F'.

8.9 In finalising the accounts it has become apparent that there will be a small overspend on the Chandos Street Development when it is completed in 2009/10. The 2008/09 estimates included an amount (£35,000) to pay for any inquiry in respect of a retail development which was subsequently not required. It is proposed that £20,000 of the General Fund underspend be earmarked to accommodate this.

- 8.10 Elsewhere on the agenda is a report in respect of the Court Street Creative Arches requesting additional funding of £34,300. It is proposed that this also be earmarked from the 2008/09 underspend.
- 8.11 **Earmarked Reserves**
It will be seen that £1,315,800 comprises items of slippage earmarked for 2009/10. These requests relate to revenue expenditure that has been unavoidably delayed, and for which finance is still required. By adopting this approach of carrying forward slippage, the Council avoids the typical public sector end of year spending spree which often does not result in good value for money. Appendix 'F' lists the items in more detail.
- 8.12 **Capital Financing Charges**
The Capital Financing Charges reductions reflect the Capital Programme being underspent as identified in Section 7. As the capital spend has reduced, so have the charges that need to be made to services in respect of this expenditure.
- 8.13 **Financing Adjustments**
The largest component of the Financing Adjustment variance (total £2.592m) is income shown in respect of Capital Charges (£4.106m actual). This income reflects the Capital Financing Charges made to services as discussed in paragraph 8.12. Just as a reduced amount has been charged to services, the income shown here is similarly reduced.
- 8.14 The revenue financing of the Capital Programme (Revenue Contributions to Capital) is less due to slippages on the capital programme. Included in the revised estimates was a revenue contribution of £46,300 to finance schemes which have subsequently slipped to 2009/10. In order to finance those scheme when complete it is necessary to transfer the resources to the Capital Investment Reserve.
- 8.15 The reduction in contributions from Reserves (£0.226m) reflects the actual financing requirements of the Council.
- 8.16 After deducting the element due to the HRA for the investment of its balances, interest receipts for 2008/09 were £257,000 above estimate. This partly relates to the returns on investments being slightly higher than estimated, but primarily to the higher balances that were held in the second half of the year. These higher balances are reflected in the high levels of slippage, notably for capital, being requested.
- 8.17 Financial Reporting Standard 17 (FRS 17) requires an authority to recognise the cost of retirement benefits in the net cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against council tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out 'below the line'. In recent years the "past service" cost has been, typically, around the £0.5m mark. The figure for 2008/09, provided by the pension fund's actuary, is only £3,000.
- 8.18 When a government grant, or any other contribution, has been applied to the financing of capital expenditure on fixed assets, a balance is established representing the deferred credit to be released to revenue to offset the capital charges made. Slippages in the capital programme have resulted in less charges

being made and, hence, reduced contributions to be written out.

8.19 Additional LABGI Grant

The Local Authorities Business Growth Incentives Grant is a “reward” from central government to authorities that have encouraged business growth in their areas. A letter from the Department for Communities and Local Government on 23rd February 2009 announced an additional grant of £348,600. This sum was unexpected and represented a distribution of an amount the Government had held back under the scheme from 2007/08.

8.20 General Fund Balance

As a result of the above items there is a surplus of £1,278,345. The following section recommends action to be taken on this surplus.

9 TREATMENT OF GENERAL FUND SURPLUS

9.1 At revised estimates time it was anticipated that there would be a deficit of £0.18m on the General Fund which has been taken from the General Fund Balance. The actual position is a surplus of £1.3m as referred to in paragraph 8.20. It is recommended that the surplus is allocated as follows:

- £20,000 be earmarked for the Chandos Street Development (see paragraph 8.9)
- £34,300 be earmarked for the Court Street Creative Arches project (see paragraph 8.10)
- £46,300 to the Capital Investment Reserve in respect of revenue funded capital schemes that have slipped to 2009/10 (see paragraph 8.14)
- £100,000 to the Contingency budget for 2009/10
- £100,000 to the Equipment Renewal Reserve
- £100,000 to the General Fund Early Retirement Reserve
- £877,745 to the General Fund Balance for further consideration as part of the 2010/11 budget setting.

10 RESERVES AND PROVISIONS

10.1 The position of the Council’s Reserves and Provisions has been reviewed and it is recommended that no changes be made at this stage other than those outlined in paragraph 9.1 above.

10.2 A full list of the Council’s Reserves and Provisions and their balances at 31st March 2009, assuming the adjustments in paragraph 9.1 are approved, can be found in Appendix ‘G’.

11 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (H.R.A)

11.1 Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2008/09 were approved by Council on 21st February 2008 when rents were increased by an average of £4.74 per week.

11.2 The H.R.A. for 2008/09 has now been finalised and is summarised in Appendix ‘H’.

This shows a balance on the H.R.A. at 31st March 2009 of £7,315,122 which is £408,000 more than the revised estimate. This was due mainly to reduced costs being recharged to General Services Supervision and Management of £451,000 in respect of Support Services and Housing Client / Contractor allocations, increased interest of £67,000 due to higher balances and interest rates offset by a contribution to the Repairs Fund of £84,000. Information on the major variances between revised estimates and actual performance can be seen in Appendix 'H'.

- 11.3 A thirty year model is maintained for the Housing Revenue Account. This model shows how the HRA balance is required in future years to enable a smooth programme of works so as to achieve and maintain the Decent Homes Standard.

12 HOUSING REPAIRS ACCOUNT AND MAJOR REPAIRS ALLOWANCE

- 12.1 In addition to the Housing Revenue Account a Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) Account and a Housing Repairs Account are maintained which, together, provide a separate record of the Council's repair and maintenance programmes.
- 12.2 The Major Repairs Allowance is received as part of the Housing Subsidy regime and is approximately equivalent to the annual depreciation of the Council's dwelling stock. The Housing Repairs Account is a record of both capital and revenue expenditure on the repair and maintenance of the Council's dwelling stock, financed by contributions from the Housing Revenue Account.
- 12.3 These accounts are summarised in Appendix 'I', which shows a reduction of £85,000 in the balance of the MRA Account and an increase of £311,000 in the balance of the Housing Repairs Account compared to Revised Estimates. The increased balance on the Housing Repairs Account is mainly due to slippage on the Housing Capital Programme. This leaves balances at 31st March 2009 of £3,903,000 on the MRA Reserve and £2,804,000 on the Housing Repairs Account.

13 COLLECTION FUND

- 13.1 The Collection Fund Income and Expenditure Account is set out in Appendix 'J'. This is the statutory account that contains the transactions with respect to the collection and distribution of council tax and national non-domestic rates (NNDR).
- 13.2 As at 31st March 2009, the surplus on the Council Tax is now £115,750, a movement of £171,500 from the opening deficit of £55,750. The surplus arises from where the Council Tax due is greater than originally anticipated, mainly due to the prudent estimation of new developments being completed within the year when calculating the Tax Base. In effect the Council assumed it would be levying Tax on a lower number of properties than was actually the case.
- 13.3 Following the statutory mid-January review of the Collection Fund it was estimated to be in balance as at 31st March 2009. As there is now a surplus, there will be a credit balance of £115,750 towards the 2009/10 Collection Fund which will be assessed later in the year as part of the Budget Setting process.
- 13.4 In respect of Non-Domestic Rates, after deducting the Cost of Collection Allowance,

and allowances for amounts that will be non-collectable, the Council's contribution to the Non-Domestic Pool for 2008/09 will be £57,561,100. The amount that the Council receives by way of its share from the Pool is £9.089m.

- 13.5 Figures relating to collectable amounts, arrears and bad debts provision are set out in Appendix 'K'. The bad debts provision, as a proportion of the amount collectable, has increased from 0.59% to 0.87%. This is due to an increase in NNDR gross arrears from £806,000 to £1,598,000. The Council Tax collection rate for 2008/09 was 98.8%, and 98.5% for Business Rates, both of which are excellent.

14 CONCLUSION

- 14.1 Whilst the Council can carry forward its capital underspend of over £3.1m, this represents 15% of the revised Housing Investment Programme and 31% of the revised Other Services Capital Programme for 2008/09. In reviewing and planning future programmes officers need to consider how they can achieve planned levels of expenditure more closely.

- 14.2 The general fund surplus for the year was £1,278,000 which is a change to the deficit of £186,000 forecast in December 2008. After stripping out the capital financing changes, which have no net effect, the main reasons for this surplus are:

- reduced salary costs (-£161,000);
- additional recycling credits (-£86,000);
- increased income from fees and charges (-£99,000) – mainly off-street car parking (-£88,000), leisure centres (-£46,000) and Revenues (-£31,000) offset by reduced Building Control fee income (+£78,000);
- reduced costs (-£66,000) and increased income (-£63,000) on Critical Ordinary Watercourses' Maintenance;
- the balance of the contingency budget not used (-£131,000);
- development of the Community Taxi Scheme not proceeded with (-£50,000);
- reduced costs of electricity, gas and NNDR (-£88,000);
- increased provision for bad debts (+£84,000);
- prior year audit adjustments in respect of Housing Benefits (+£119,000);
- increased investment interest (-£257,000); and
- additional award of LAGBI grant (-£348,600).

There are also a number of other revenue variances as set out in Appendix 'E'.

- 14.3 The Housing Revenue Account increased its balance by £408,000 compared to Revised Estimates mainly through reduced Management costs.
- 14.4 The Council has a recent history of overestimating the Council Tax Base due to the difficulty in forecasting when new developments will actually come on line. For 2008/09 a more prudent approach was again taken, resulting in a council tax credit balance.
- 14.5 The Council has a robust set of reserves and provisions as shown in Appendix 'G'. Further consideration will need to be given to the reserves and provisions when considering the development of future years' budgets.