

Item No: 8.1	Classification: Open	Date: 20 October 2004	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report Title:		Interim report on significant amendments to the final audited accounts for the year 2003/04	
Ward(s) or Group affected:		All	
From:		Finance Director	

RECOMMENDATION

1. Council assembly notes this interim report on the position regarding the re-presentation of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004 which will be followed by a full and detailed report on the amendments required.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004 were presented to and approved by the council assembly on 21 July 2004. Continuing reviews by the finance team and audit fieldwork by the external auditors have highlighted the need to make material amendments to those accounts and for them to be re-approved by the council assembly.
3. The material adjustments include amendments to the approach used for valuing and reporting the worth of housing stock and other property in the accounts together with the potential use of funds generally and classification of reserve balances in particular.
4. A report from the external auditors on control and governance issues will also be presented to the council assembly together with responses from council officers.
5. We apologise for the late submission of the full report which has been necessary due to reviews and analysis by the finance team and external auditors in completion of the amended accounts and governance report continuing past the date for distribution of council assembly papers. The full report will be issued as soon as possible and this interim report seeks to provide a very brief summary of the issues being raised.
6. The council's external auditors have a statutory duty to provide an opinion on the 2003/04 accounts by 30 November 2004. Since there are material amendments to the accounts, it is necessary for the council assembly to re-approve the amended accounts as part of the sign-off procedures. It is also considered best practice to provide the council assembly with the external auditor's report on governance matters as part of this approval process. There is no council assembly in November to receive these items.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
2003/04 Accounts	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London. SE5 8UB	Finance Director 020 7525 7180

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Bishop, Finance Director	
Report Author	Stephen Bishop, Finance Director	
Version	Final	
Dated	6 October 2004	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor	Y	Y
Executive Member	N	N
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	8-10-04	