

Members generally welcomed the report. In reply to a question the Head of Transportation and Landscape, Norwich City Council, said that the allocation of officer time on work programmed for the future would be addressed through the service planning process.

RESOLVED to approve the Annual Report of the Norwich City Agency for 2006/07.

4. STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL 2006/07

The Chief Internal Auditor, Norfolk County Council, presented the report and expressed his appreciation of the assistance provided by officers of both the City and County Councils in preparing the Statement on Internal Control.

A member queried whether any of the significant control issues identified in the report were such as to prevent the Committee from signing off the accounts. He was particularly concerned about the internal audit review of the decriminalised parking accounts given the shortfall in income as compared to the original estimate. The Corporate Revenue Manager, Norfolk County Council, said that the audit review was looking at the reasons for the reduced income compared with the estimate. He had received an assurance from the Chief Financial Officer at the City Council that the accounts were free from material error. On this basis he was happy for the Committee to approve the draft accounts today. Any corrections or amendments required in respect of control issues would be reflected in the final accounts and be reported to the Committee together with the external auditor's report in September.

RESOLVED to note the report, action plan and draft Statement on Internal Control and approve the signing of the final statement for inclusion in the annual statement of accounts 2006/07 subject to it being recognised that the results of investigations into the significant control issues identified would be reported to the September meeting before the accounts were finalised.

5. 2006/07 - FINAL ACCOUNTS

The Corporate Revenue Manager, Norfolk County Council, presented the report and referred to the close working with officers from the City Council to ensure that the accounts complied with all proper accounting practices. The Committee was being asked to approve the draft accounts for audit by the external auditor. The issues discussed earlier in the meeting would be reported to the September meeting when the audit results were available.

The Corporate Revenue Manager then answered a number of questions about the accounts. He said that as the County Council owned all fixed assets the accounts reflected revenue items only. He explained why no mention of monies arising from utilities had been made in the accounts. The monies were not regarded as being collectable and therefore had no material value. The information to produce the accounts had been extracted from both the City and County's accounts and the officers would work together to ensure consistency.

RESOLVED to approve the draft Statement of Accounts for 2006/07 subject to it being recognised that the results of investigations into the significant control issues identified would be reported to the September meeting before the accounts were finalised.

CHAIR