

Putting the Community First



Summary of Accounts 2007-08



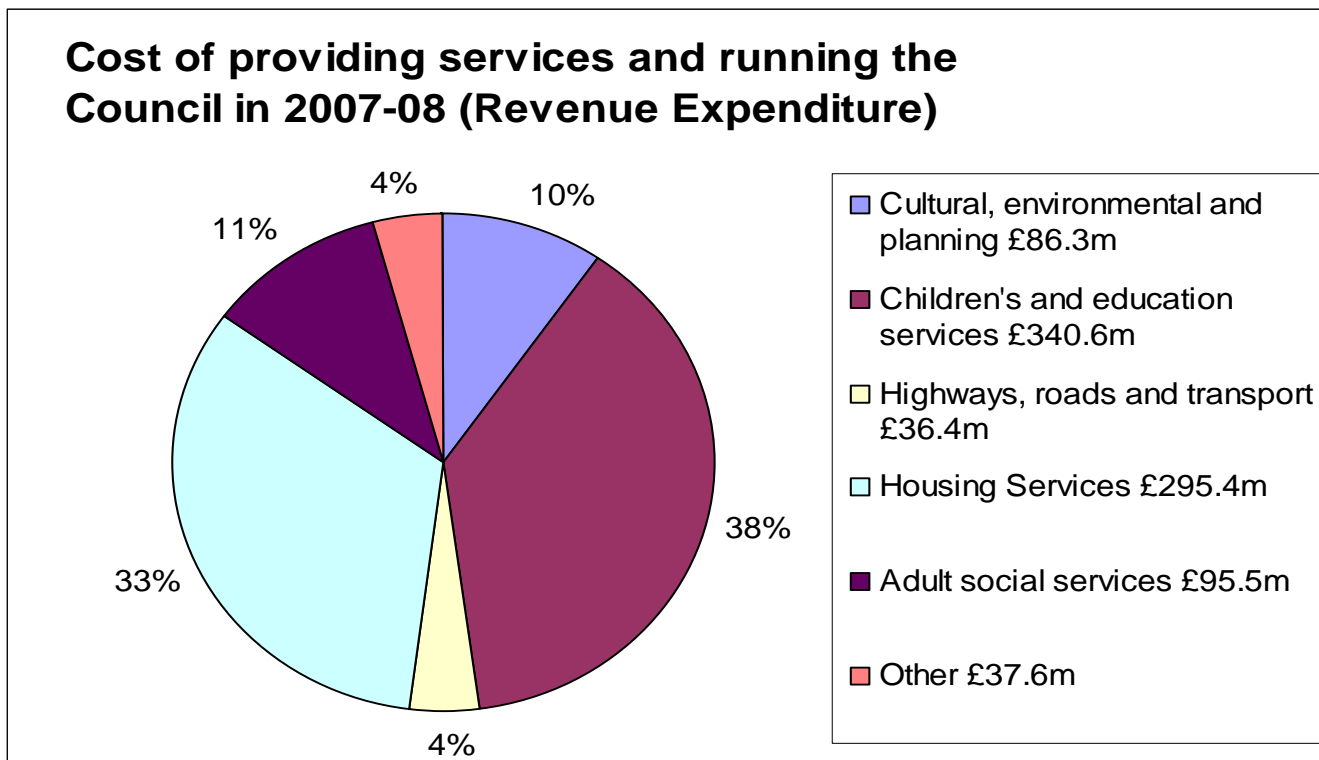
The London Borough of Barnet is rated as a top performing Council by the Audit Commission

Introduction

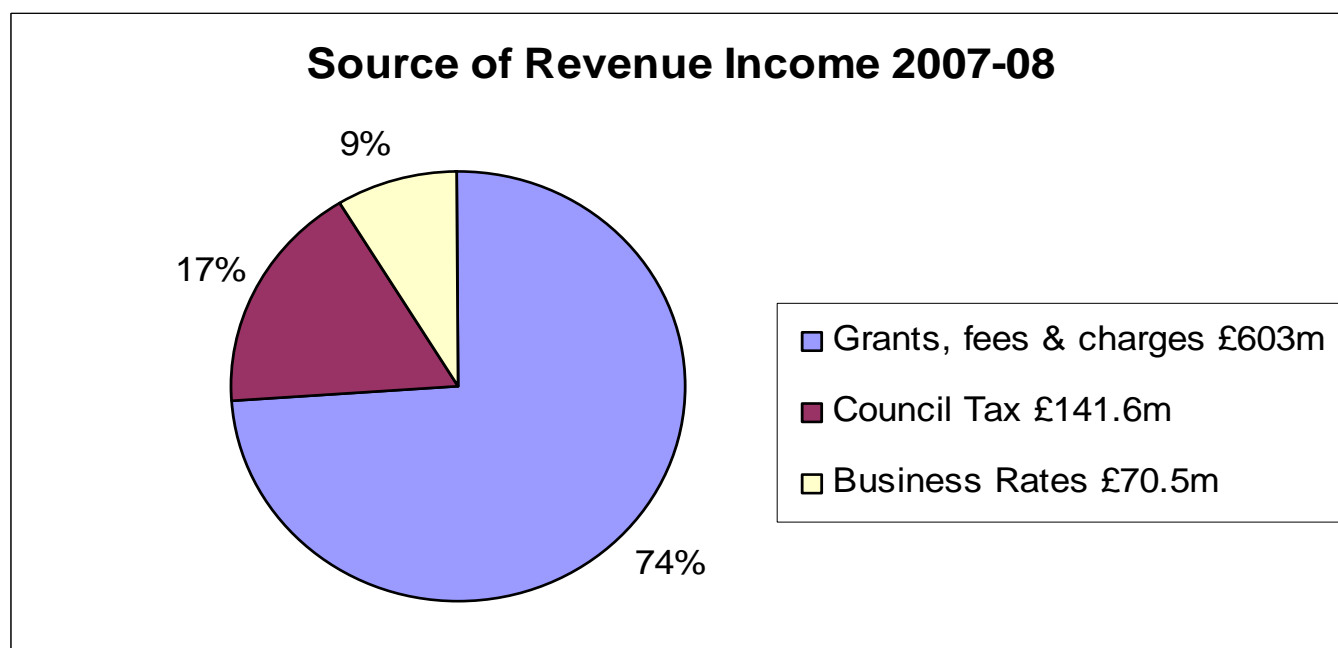
This document provides an overview of the Council's income and expenditure for financial year 2007-08 and its financial position as at 31 March 2008. The full statement of accounts can be viewed on line at <http://www.barnet.gov.uk/statement-of-accounts>.

The Cost of Running Services

In 2007-08 the Council spent £892 million providing services for Barnet residents. The chart below gives a breakdown of service costs:



These services are paid for by a combination of central government grants, income generated from fees & charges, council tax and business rates. Total revenue income in 2007-08 was £815m, as illustrated below.



Revenue Summary	£'m
In year revenue expenditure	892
In year revenue income	(815)
Sub Total - Net in year revenue expenditure	77
Adjustments*	(84)
Annual increase in revenue balances**	(7)

*adjustments are for items that are not charged against revenue balances.

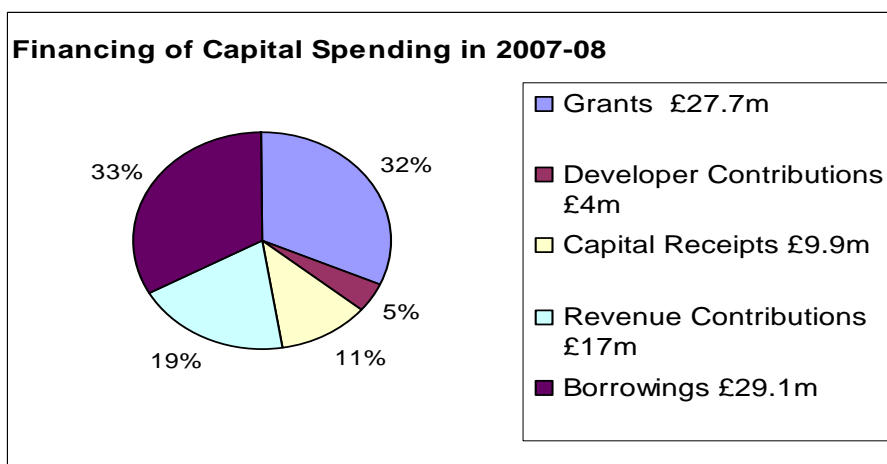
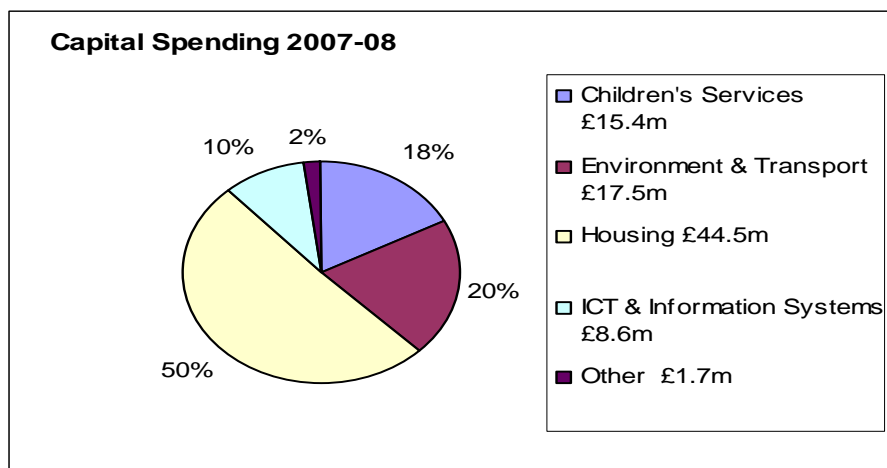
**Revenue balances represent the difference between cumulative income and cumulative expenditure receivable to / payable from the *General Fund* – which is like a 'current account' that exists to provide for the Council's day to day activities. As at 31 March 2008 our General Fund / Revenue balances stood at £29m – this being the excess of cumulative revenue income over cumulative revenue expenditure. Balances are held as a buffer to meet unforeseen / unplanned costs which would otherwise have to be met from reductions in service expenditure.

Council Housing

The Council has a housing stock of 11,195 dwellings, which are managed in partnership with Barnet Homes Ltd. Under legislation all expenditure on the management and maintenance of housing stock has to be covered by rental income and central government subsidy and *cannot* be financed by Council Tax. As such all related income and expenditure is accounted for separately (from other Council spending) in a *Housing Revenue Account*.

Capital spending

Capital expenditure is where money is spent on acquiring new assets or enhancing existing assets, such as roads and buildings, which provide benefit to the Council beyond the immediate financial year. In 2007-08 capital expenditure totalled £87.7m. The charts below show where this was spent and how it was financed (paid for).



Financial Position as at 31 March 2008

There is a difference of £1,463m between the Council's assets (things we own e.g. property, investments, stocks and debtors) and its liabilities (what we owe to others). This difference represents a surplus of assets over liabilities of nearly £1.5 billion and is a measure of *Total Worth* – i.e. what the council would be worth if bought / acquired by someone else. A summary of the Council's Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2008 is shown below

What we own and are owed (Assets)	
Land, buildings, vehicles, equipment & infrastructure	£1,790.3m
Investments	£261.4m
Cash	£19.6m
Money owed to Council (debtors)	£58.9m
Stock and other assets	£13.9m
Total	£2,144.1m
What we owe (Liabilities)	
Long term borrowing - to finance capital expenditure	£212.4m
Short term borrowing - to support day to day cash flow needs	£21.4m
Goods & services received but not paid for (creditors)	£145.4m
Liability for meeting future pension costs	£191.5m
Other liabilities	£110.5m
Total	£681.2m
Total Worth (Assets minus Liabilities) as at 31 March 2008	£1.462.9m

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on the information contained in this leaflet. Please send any queries or comments to: Gregory Pike, Strategic Finance, London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park N11 1NP. [email Gregory.Pike@barnet.gov.uk]