

SCHOOL STANDARDS AND FRAMEWORK ACT 1998

Account, prepared pursuant to Schedule 1, para 7(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, of the North West Shropshire Education Action Zone for the period ended 2 April 2005, together with the Comptroller and Auditor General's Certificate and Report thereon. (In continuation of House of Commons Paper No. 15 of 2005-2006)

Presented pursuant to School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Sch. 1, s 11, para 7(3)

North West Shropshire Education Action Zone Account 1 April 2004 to 2 April 2005

ORDERED BY THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TO BE PRINTED 8 JUNE 2005

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Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees

John Stevens	Secondary School Governor (Chair of Action Forum)
Arthur Walpole	Secondary School Governor (Vice Chair of Action Forum)
Sue Austin	Key Stage 3/4 Parent
Eileen Barnes Vachell	Department for Education and Skills (resigned 2 December 2004)
Chris Bell	Primary School Headteacher (resigned 2 December 2004)
Karen Bradshaw	Connexions
John Burke	Rhyn Park Area Primary Governor
Richard Byrne	Secondary School Governor
Tony Clay	Co-opted Youth Service Representative
Alan Cooper	Business Representative
Graham Davies	Secondary School Headteacher (resigned 2 December 2004)
Janet Gargiulo	Ellesmere Area Primary Governor
David Griffiths	Business Representative
Barbara Gull	Oswestry Rural Area Primary School Governor
Lesley Hall	Co-opted Primary School Headteacher
Richard Hedge	Secondary School Headteacher
Ryan Jervis	Secondary School Headteacher
Jane King	Early Years/Key Stage 1 Parent
Lance Leonard	Secondary School Teacher
Rob McDevitt	Primary School Headteacher
Alan Moss	Department for Education and Skills (from 2 December 2004)
Mark Owen	Oswestry Town Primary School Governor
John Pare	Business Representative
Sandie Pare	Primary School Headteacher
Ron Pugh	FE College Principal
Bill Theedom	Key Stage 2 Parent
Chris Warn	Shropshire LEA
Jill Wytcherley	Project Director

Executive Committee

John Stevens (Chairman)
Graham Davies
Richard Hedge
Rob McDevitt
Sandie Pare
Chris Warn
Jill Wytcherley

Finance Committee

Arthur Walpole (Chairman)
David Griffiths
John Pare
Ron Pugh
John Stevens
Bill Theedom
Jill Wytcherley
Mary Lay (co-opted)
Jim Godfrey (in attendance as Finance Officer)

Curriculum Committee

Richard Byrne (Chairman)
Chris Bell
Barbara Gull
Lesley Hall
Ryan Jervis
Jane King
Lance Leonard
Mark Owen
Sandie Pare
John Stevens
Chris Warn
Jill Wytcherley

Secretary

Jane Powell

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Report of the Trustees

The Trustees' present their report and the audited financial statements for the period ended 2 April 2005.

Constitution and principal activities

The North West Shropshire Action Forum is a corporate body and exempt charity established on 2 April 2000 under the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act. The Forum does not have a share capital. This Act and its associated regulations are the primary governing documents of the Forum. Trustees of the Forum are nominated in accordance with the statutory instrument.

The principal activity of the Forum is to improve standards within the schools that are part of its Education Action Zone.

In accordance with the Act the Forum has adopted an 'Action Plan' approved by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. The Action Plan specifies the following objectives

1 to increase learning opportunities by

- a a much wider use of ICT as a means of bringing new learning opportunities to schools, so helping to reduce the effects of isolation and limited horizons;
- b increased out of hours learning opportunities at the end of the school day, in evenings, weekends and in some holiday periods as an important way of counteracting the abrupt end to school-based learning caused by the departure of the school bus; to provide experience of cities, cultural activities, sport and art; and
- c improved support for family learning so as to begin to counteract the lack of opportunities for children to learn at home.

2 to raise expectations and attainment by

- a intensive support to improve standards of literacy, especially in Key Stages (KS) 1 to 3, through such means as better teaching, more scope to apply literacy skills, the wider use of new technology as a means of improving personal skills and more involvement in drama;
- b similar support for numeracy, with opportunities for the application of skills in practical contexts and the increased use of new technology;
- c much more scope for able and gifted pupils to excel and to reach far more ambitious learning targets with the help of such initiatives as master classes, advanced problem-solving activities and university involvement;
- d overcoming barriers to social inclusion through integrated multi-agency approaches; and
- e tackling the long-established pattern of the relative under-achievement of many boys through such means as curriculum improvements, mentoring, industrial challenges and demonstrating convincingly the personal rewards that flow from education.

3 developing improved partnerships and ways of working, especially by

- a ensuring that teaching consistently matches the challenges of the Zone through the wider adoption of practices that will enable our plans to be achieved;
- b managing new partnerships and developing management and leadership skills in collaborative working between Zone partners. We can achieve results together with 21 schools, a tertiary college, local businesses, the County Council, Social Services, the Health Authority, the Careers Service, the Youth Service and other agencies that we cannot achieve on our own.

Future prospects

Under the 1998 Schools Standards and Framework Act the Education Action Zone was given a statutory life of no more than five years. As this period was completed on 2 April 2005 the Secretary of State for Education and Skills has passed an order closing the Zone with effect from this date.

Going concern

In view of the cessation of the Forum's activities on 2 April 2005 the Trustees no longer consider the preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis to be appropriate. Upon closure the Zone's assets and liabilities have been transferred to the North West Shropshire Excellence Cluster at net book value. A small number of assets have been sold and the proceeds reinvested (with DFES approval) in achieving the Zone's objectives. No other adjustments have been necessary to the net book values of assets held immediately prior to closure.

Organisation and objectives

The sole activity of the Forum is the operation of the North West Shropshire EAZ. The operational management structure of the EAZ consists of a Project Director, Assistant Director and six full or part-time Project Strand Coordinators. These posts constitute the EAZ Senior Management Team which reports to the Forum. In addition there is a full time secretary, a finance assistant, technicians and outreach inclusion staff. All staff report to the Project Director who in turn reports to the Forum.

The Action Forum represents key stakeholders in the Action Zone. It has three main committees to which it devolves many of its day-to-day management responsibilities. These are

The Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and the Curriculum Committee.

Committee membership is detailed in the list of Trustees.

The following working groups have continued to work through the implications of Zone closure and transformation to Excellence Cluster. These groups are

The Exit Strategy Group, Appeals and the Transformation Group. From September 2004 a Shadow Partnership Board was created by the LEA to manage the transformation to Excellence Cluster. From January 2005 the EAZ Exit Strategy Group and Executive Group merged to manage the closedown of the EAZ.

The Exit Strategy and Executive Groups are made up of Zone Trustees. The Shadow Partnership Board includes Cluster stakeholder representation, some EAZ Trustees, the EAZ Project Director and the LEA Assistant Director of Children's Services.

The aim of the Zone is to involve Schools and Business Partners and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels.

The present Trustees of the EAZ are set out on page 2. All the Trustees were newly appointed in 2000-2001, with some additions or changes to personnel in the following four years.

Developments, activities and achievements

The Forum is in its fifth and final year of operation. During its fifth year the EAZ has made a number of achievements, with improvements, consolidation and sustainability in its three priority areas

- **increasing learning opportunities** through the introduction of innovative uses of new technology in the classroom, a Zone website for sharing good practice, a scheme of work for teacher support, ICT training for teachers, teaching assistants and administrative staff and advice on purchasing. The technical support team has improved access and advised on networks. Schools have been supported in purchasing additional ICT resources, especially ceiling mounted projectors and interactive whiteboards, and given training in their use. Support for integrating ICT into cross curricular planning has improved the use of ICT as a teaching tool. The website has been reconstructed on Digital Brain to enable access to information post Zone;
- through funding for Out of Hours Learning schools have extended and enriched pupils' learning with a widening range of activities including homework/study clubs, breakfast and lunch clubs, holiday revision schools, visits to cultural and sporting centres and access to specialist curriculum providers. Training for independent study has been provided to cohorts of pupils and their teachers. Funding for transport and the Zone minibus is key to this programme. NOF grant funding supported the activities until December 2004. Our second highly successful 'Arts in the Park' activity week brought multi-cultural education to the whole community, supported by additional bids for funding. Effective practice is being disseminated through our end of Zone publication;
- the EAZ has provided support for family projects through the innovative Family Support Worker programme (which is now mainstreamed through Social Services and managed by Barnados), Behaviour Management Workshops for parents, support for additional Library Services, intensive working with Sure Start, as well as providing funding for drop-in centres, resources and family visits for cultural activities. Our mathematics co-ordinator has given a series of family learning sessions at Sure Start Family Centres. Hard to reach Traveller families have co-operated to produce early readers for traveller children, which won a national partnership award;
- **raising attainment and expectations** through intensive literacy support to schools. Working with literacy co-ordinators, individual teachers and teaching assistants, providing generic training and teacher development activities, specialist provision and summer schools for gifted pupils and pupils in need of support with literacy. Developing literacy across the curriculum and incorporating ICT had been a focus of training. Links with Sure Start have initiated the Language and Literacy Forum for Early Years providers, bespoke books for Travelling families and joint training sessions. As our co-ordinator left at Christmas schools received funding for additional teaching assistant time in the spring term;
- numeracy support has focused on developing specific projects to offset generic weaknesses in teaching and learning and to provide innovative ways of working through the use of multi-media, whiteboard and website technologies. In particular this year the Numeracy Coordinator has focused on improving problem-solving and investigation skills, including publishing a manual for teachers. He has developed assessment for learning approaches and digital pupil portfolios as a record of work. He has set up challenge activities for especially gifted pupils in mathematics;
- a conference on Effective Learning for all Zone teachers helped create a baseline of shared understanding about brain-based learning. Training for Accelerated Learning for one teacher from each school has started a network of teachers to sustain the progress and emphasis on personalised learning after the Zone finishes. Some of these teachers have been on additional courses and reported back to the group. This is supported by a policy and a rationale for gifted and talented provision in schools on the website and on CD. Gifted and talented pupils have benefited from Summer Schools with follow-up opportunities, masterclasses, challenge activities and training in accelerated learning techniques. Aim Higher/Excellence Challenge pupils have had aspirational visits and visitors to and from FE and HEIs. A network for Gifted and Talented School Coordinators has been established for training and sharing practice. The EAZ facilitated five schools sending teachers on the national training programme for Gifted and Talented Co-ordinators and supported in-house project development. Transformation to Excellence Cluster is advanced;
- the EAZ has initiated and facilitated a range of innovative multi-agency measures and new roles to promote social inclusion and boys' achievement. Oswestry is now seen as a national centre for development of new approaches to partnership working. The TIC TAC centres are nationally recognised as good practice, and regular workshop sessions have enhanced the provision. A pilot project for Social Services to extend the Family Support Worker role to Primary Schools was being run by the EAZ. The work on inclusion has been disseminated across the West Midlands at a number of presentations, and was flagged up by Charter Mark to central government recently. The TIC TAC provision has been extended to EAZ partners at Walford and North Shropshire Colleges, to other parts of Shropshire and to Hereford. A new Learning Mentor pilot project has been established to anticipate the Cluster strand. A Youth Music grant has kept this project going. All these projects are to be sustained pending the implementation of the Children's Services Act;

- **improved partnerships and ways of working** have been extended by consolidating opportunities for professional development and training in teaching and learning, especially through establishing a focus on effective learning to complement effective teaching, collaborative projects and observing effective practice in other settings. The Development Centre is in constant use for meetings and training. School self-evaluation has been the focus of improvement for target schools. Foundation Curriculum teachers have had intensive development support and training, especially related to resource improvements in outdoor facilities, behaviour management, early language development and planning for cross-curricular work from the foundation stage to KS1. A large project on developing unique facilities for Outdoor Play for Learning has involved four schools. Teachers, support assistants and technicians have gained accredited training. Behaviour Management training and Design Technology resourcing have supported development in areas of weakness. We have accessed more volunteer help for basic skills and out of hours learning, which is match-fundable;
- many PTAs recognise the support of the EAZ and have vastly improved their earnings to offer donations to support the Action Plan. Exit activities for schools have been arranged;
- networks exist at all school levels to enable ideas and best practice to be shared and for devolved leadership training. The Primary School Development Group was revived as a Forum for leadership training and networked learning. Large scale consultation on Transformation to Excellence Cluster has taken place in all network groups. Our three Zone secondary schools with Specialist College status began developing related Zone activities such as Summer Schools, Revision schools and collaborative working through LIG funding. The EAZ is part of the Oswestry Borough Community Strategy for regeneration of our rural area. We now work to support a number of joint projects with partner agencies and enterprises, both locally and countywide. Business in the Community have begun a Shropshire Business Forum but it has yet to impact on support for education. The Aim Higher/Excellence Challenge project has been effective in raising aspirations and creating improved link working with FE and HE. Assessment for learning has been a major focus, with supportive toolkits produced and introduced to schools; and
- an exit Achievements Event was held to launch our EAZ Team Treasure Chest publication. The Shadow Partnership Board has been established for the Cluster with EAZ advisory support. The 14-19 Pathfinder project has linked schools and colleges across the county. Stronger ties have been made with other EAZ projects nationally, especially through meetings of the West Midlands Project Directors Group and the shared conference and publication to celebrate Zone achievements across the West Midlands.

Operating and financial review

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with current statutory requirements and the Forum's governing documents.

Most of the EAZ's income is obtained from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in the form of recurrent grants the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received during the period to 2 April 2005 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The Zone was able to call on £819,521 in matched funding in the year to support its activities.

During the period to 2 April 2005 the EAZ also received other restricted grants from the DfES Government Departments/Agencies and donations from commercial sponsors, the details of which are in notes 3, 4 and 5. These donations have been given to the EAZ to assist it to achieve its Action Plan and have been fully expended.

Additional Grants received from the DfES are £4,500 for a Gifted and Talented Summer School and £53,900 for Aim Higher/Excellence Challenge (see below for details.)

Grants from other agencies include NOF funding for Out of Hours Learning, SRB funding for a Family Support Worker and funding for Arts in the Park

Funding of £53,900 was received for Aim Higher/Excellence Challenge Projects. This was applied to Coordination of the project, curriculum link activities between the schools and College/HEIs, development of technology (our focus area of weakness in schools and college for continuity to HE), a tutor mentoring project, further development of a dedicated Aim Higher/Excellence Challenge information centre in the library of each school, aspirational visits and visitors, training in accelerated learning, holiday revision schools, individual advice and guidance and an information evening for parents. Some students also attended university summer schools.

At 2 April 2005 the net book value of fixed assets was £20,000 (before transfer and sale). The movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in Note 13 to the financial statements. Assets at a net book value of £14,000 have been transferred to Schools within the Zone. A minibus with a net book value of £6,000, and some non-tangible fixed assets have been purchased by Walford & North Shropshire College and the proceeds have been re-invested in achieving the objectives of the Zone. The Zone's accounts have been adjusted to reflect these transactions.

Fund review

When the EAZ ceased to operate on 2 April 2005 its fund balances were nil. Fund balances existing prior to the date have been utilised in fulfilling the Zone's objectives. At cessation £16,645 was transferred to Shropshire County Council which has been nominated as Successor Body committed to overseeing any outstanding matters. To achieve its Action Plan objectives the EAZ remained dependant on the provision of grants from the DFES and Commercial Sponsors.

Connected organisations

The EAZ is working closely with its partnership schools to achieve the Forum's objectives. The partnership schools are

Type of School	Name of School
Infant	Oswestry Infant School, Middleton Road
Junior	Beech Grove CE Junior School
Primary	Bryn Offa CE Primary School
	Cockshutt CE Primary School
	Criftins CE Primary School
	Ellesmere County Primary School
	Gobowen Primary School
	Ifton Heath Primary School
	Maesbury Primary School
	Morda CE Primary School
	Our Lady and St Oswald's Catholic Primary School
	Selattyn CE Primary School
	The Meadows Primary School
	Trefonen CE Primary School
	Welshampton CE Primary School
	Weston Rhyn Primary School
	Whittington CE Primary School
Woodside Primary School	
Secondary	Lakelands School and Sports College
	Rhyn Park School and Performing Arts College
	The Marches School and Technology College
Partner Tertiary College	Walford and North Shropshire College

The Forum has contracted with Walford and North Shropshire College to provide accounting and financial services. Shropshire County Council provides payroll services.

Disabled persons

The policy of the Forum is to support the employment of disabled persons both in the recruitment and by retention of employees who become disabled whilst in the employment of the Forum, as well as generally through training and career development.

Post balance sheet events

The Zone ceased all activities at the end of its statutory life on the 2 April 2005. At this date it transformed into the North West Shropshire Excellence Cluster. Expenditure for the period ended 2 April 2005 included redundancy costs of £60,457 relating to five members of staff, Early Retirement Costs of £33,758 and Retention payments of £5,889.

Prior year adjustments

No prior year adjustments have been made to the accounts for the period ended 2 April 2005.

Reserves policy

The Forum cannot build up restricted reserves of DfES grant as the Department requires that this grant should be applied in the year in which it is received. Where the Forum has earned unrestricted income (e.g. bank interest), it is the Forum's policy to apply these reserves to its action plan commitments.

Risk management

In 2001 the Trustees carried out a detailed review of the charity's activities and produced a comprehensive strategic plan setting out the major opportunities available to the charity and the risks to which it is exposed.

The Trustees monitor progress against the strategic objectives set out in the plan at each meeting and a comprehensive review of the plan is carried out annually. As part of this process, the Trustees have implemented a risk management strategy which comprises

- an annual review of the risks which the charity may face;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identified in the plan; and
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of those risks materialise.

Statement on Internal Control

a Maintenance of internal controls

As Trustees, we have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Forum's policies, aims and objectives whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which we are responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to us in our Financial Memorandum and Government Accounting.

The system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of Forum policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

This process has been in place for the period ended 2 April 2005 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts and accords with Treasury guidance.

b Review of controls

As Trustees, we also have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. In 2004-2005 the Forum reviewed its processes as follows

- identification of the Forum's objectives and key risks. The Forum carries out an ongoing review of its activities against a comprehensive strategic plan setting out the major opportunities available to it and the risks to which it is exposed;
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate the risks identified in the plan. The Forum has adopted the DfES model Risk Assessment process for the operation of the programme and undertakes a full review annually. The Project Director and Finance Officer confer directly with the DfES Finance Department to ensure systems comply with specific regulations or procedures laid down by central government departments. In addition in the final year two visits by DfES personnel have concentrated on closedown procedures, risks and liabilities. All Committee meetings update on progress in the exit strategy;
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of those risks materialise; e.g. the retention of key employees and additional support to the Finance administration team;
- procedures for monitoring progress against the strategic objectives set out in the plan at regular meetings (e.g. six times per year);
- a comprehensive review of the plan with a separate review of the risks which the Forum may face;
- DfES finance personnel are consulted for advice on regulations and procedures;
- The Forum ensured the continuation of good practice achieved by the Zone by
 - Involving the EAZ Assistant Director, who has assumed responsibility for donations and sponsorship, in internal budget management to offset the risk of key personnel with sole responsibility leaving the Zone; a review of services provided by North Shropshire College, leading to the employment of a part time Finance Consultant to support the Audit process to replace the Zone's accountant who left in December;
 - consolidating responsibility for budget management. The first tier system of control is the EAZ SMT monthly out-turn review, the second tier is the Project Director, EAZ Match Funding Officer and the Finance Officer meeting to prepare information for Finance Committee meetings, for the quarterly returns to the DfES, for the new budget and end-of-year out-turn and for audit. The Chair of Finance is consulted on management decisions and processes and reviews agenda items prior to meetings. The Finance Committee meets a minimum of six times annually to consider the implications of current budget strategy and outturns and to direct the financial operations of the ensuing period. The Finance Committee reports to each meeting of the Action Forum. The Executive Committee, which meets every four weeks, both feeds information and advice to and receives information and advice from the Finance Committee; members of the Finance and Executive Committees together make up the Exit Strategy Group;

- Continuing work through an Exit Strategy group to address the specific risks associated with Zone closure, comprising the Chairs of each Forum Committee, the Zone Solicitor, the Project Director, a Primary School Headteacher and the Zone LEA Link Advisor. Support from the LEA Finance, Personnel, Legal and Records Departments has been established by the LEA CEO and senior officers. A separate Appeals Committee and a Shadow Partnership Board for the Excellence Cluster are also in place; and
- Our review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and reports.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities for the Financial Statements

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial period in the form and on the basis determined by the Secretary of State with the approval of the Treasury. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees have

- selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- followed applicable accounting standards; and
- prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Forum's activities were ceasing.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Forum and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Accounts Direction given by the Secretary of State. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Forum and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees have a responsibility to ensure that the Forum's accounting records and system of internal control for the relevant financial period comply with the obligations placed on the Forum by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills.

Auditors

The auditor, the Comptroller and Auditor General, is appointed under the terms of the 1998 School Standards and Framework Act.

Approval

The report of the Trustees was approved on 17 March 2005 and signed on its behalf by

John Stevens
Chairman

4 May 2005

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament

I certify that I have audited the financial statements on pages 15 to 29 under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and the accounting policies set out on pages 19 to 20.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Auditor

As described on page 12 the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. The Trustees are also responsible for the preparation of the Trustees' Annual Report. My responsibilities, as independent auditor, are established by statute and guided by the Auditing Practices Board and the auditing profession's ethical guidance.

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and directions made thereunder by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and whether the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. I also report if, in my opinion, the Trustees' Annual Report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the Forum has not kept proper accounting records, or if I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I review whether the statement on pages 10 and 11 reflects the Forum's compliance with HM Treasury's guidance 'Corporate Governance: statement on the system of internal control'. I report if it does not meet the requirements specified by the Treasury, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider, nor have I considered whether the Forum's Statement on Internal Control covers all risks and controls. I am also not required to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Zone's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

Basis of Audit Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with United Kingdom Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts, disclosures and regularity of financial transactions included in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Zone's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by error, or by fraud or other irregularity and that, in all material respects, the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I have also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Following the passing of the North West Shropshire Education Action Zone (Dissolution) Order 2005, the Zone ceased to exist with effect from 2 April 2005. Accordingly as explained in the Trustees' Report and note 1 to the accounts, the financial statements have been prepared on the basis that the Zone is no longer a going concern. My opinion is not qualified in this respect.

Opinion

In my opinion

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the North West Shropshire EAZ at 2 April 2005 and of its incoming resources, application of resources and cash flows for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and directions made thereunder by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills; and
- in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

John Bourn
Comptroller and Auditor General

24 May 2005

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Statement of Financial Activities for the period ended 2 April 2005

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total	Total
		£000	DfES £000	Other £000	Fixed assets £000	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Incoming resources							
DfES grants receivable	2,3	0	1,414	61	0	1,475	738
Other government grants receivable	4	0	0	47	0	47	95
Private sector contributions	5	438	0	0	0	438	247
Public sector contributions	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other income	6	4	0	0	13	17	4
Amortisation transfer		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total incoming resources		442	1,414	108	13	1,977	1,129
Resources expended							
Costs of generating funds	7	0	16	0	0	16	26
Net incoming resources for Charitable application		442	1,398	108	13	1,961	1,103
Charitable expenditure							
<i>Costs in furtherance of charitable objectives</i>							
Provision of education	7	0	7	0	0	7	14
Education support costs	7	0	585	15	43	643	774
Grants payable	7	435	580	100	0	1,115	328
Management and administration	7	0	97	3	0	100	84
Total charitable expenditure		435	1,269	118	43	1,865	1,200
Cost of termination of operations	9	0	104	0	0	104	0
Total resources expended		435	1,389	118	43	1,985	1,226
Net incoming/(outgoing)							
Resources before transfers		7	25	(10)	(30)	(8)	(97)
Transfers between funds		19	10	(10)	(19)	0	0
Net movement in funds		26	35	(20)	(49)	(8)	(97)
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2004		(26)	(35)	20	49	8	105
Fund balances carried forward at 2 April 2005	18,19	0	0	0	0	0	8

The Statement of Financial Activities analyses all the capital and income resources and expenditures of the EAZ during the period and reconciles the movement in funds. There is no difference in the net movement of funds stated above and its historical equivalent. All items dealt with in arriving at the net movement in funds for the period to 2 April 2005 relate to discontinued operations.

Further analysis of the income and expenditure for the period is shown on page 16 and the overall financial position at the period end is summarised in the balance sheet on page 17.

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form part of these accounts.

Income and Expenditure Account for the period ended 2 April 2005

	Notes	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	31 March 2004 £000
Income			
DfES EAZ recurrent grant	2	1,414	701
DfES EAZ fixed asset grant	2	0	23
Other DfES grants	3	61	59
Other government grants	4	47	95
Private sector contributions	5	438	247
Public sector contributions	5	0	0
Other income	6	17	4
Amortisation/deferred income		0	0
Total income		1,977	1,129
Charitable expenditure			
DfES EAZ grant expenditure	7	1,269	710
Other DfES grant expenditure	7	61	62
Other government grant expenditure	7	57	93
Depreciation and other asset related items	7	43	29
Other expenditure	7	435	306
Total charitable expenditure		1,865	1,200
Costs of generating funds	7	16	26
Costs of termination of operations	9	104	0
Total resources expended		1,985	1,226
Excess of income over expenditure		(8)	(97)
Net transfers to/from funds			
DfES EAZ fund	18	35	(35)
Other restricted funds	18	(69)	(7)
Unrestricted funds	19	26	(55)
Net movement in funds		(8)	(97)

The Income and Expenditure account is derived from the Statement of Financial Activities on page 15 which, together with the notes to the accounts on pages 19 to 29 provide full information on the movements during the period on all the funds of the Forum.

All items dealt with in arriving at the excess of expenditure over income for the period ended 2 April 2005 relate to discontinued operations.

The Forum has no recognised gains and losses other than those included in the above results and therefore no separate statement of total recognised gains and losses has been presented.

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet as at 2 April 2005

		Period ended	31 March
		2 April	2004
	Notes	2005	
		£000	£000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	<u>0</u>	<u>49</u>
		0	49
Current assets			
Debtors	15	<u>0</u>	27
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>0</u>	<u>69</u>
		0	96
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>0</u>	<u>137</u>
Net current assets		<u>0</u>	<u>(41)</u>
Net assets		<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>
Funds			
Restricted funds	18	<u>0</u>	34
Unrestricted funds	19	<u>0</u>	<u>(26)</u>
		<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form part of these accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Forum on 17 March 2005 and signed on its behalf by

John Stevens
Chairman

4 May 2005

Cash Flow Statement for the period ended 2 April 2005

	Period ended 2 April 2005	2003-2004
	Note	£000
		£000
Operating activities		
<i>Receipts</i>		
Recurrent EAZ grant received from DfES		1,414
Capital grant from DfES		0
Other DfES grants		61
Other government grants		47
Private sector sponsorship		267
Public sector sponsorship		0
Other receipts		13
		<u>1,802</u>
		943
<i>Payments</i>		
Staff costs		447
Other cash payments		1,443
		<u>1,890</u>
Net cash (outflow) from operating activities	24	(88)
		(90)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance		
Interest received		0
Interest paid		0
		<u>0</u>
		1
Capital expenditure		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		0
Receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets		(19)
		<u>(19)</u>
		23
Financing		
Deferred grant received		0
		<u>0</u>
		0
(Decrease) in cash in the period		(69)
		<u>(112)</u>

The notes on pages 19 to 29 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting policies

Format of accounts

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards in the United Kingdom, the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2000), 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' published in October 2000 and the Charities Act 1993. A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, is set out below.

Basis of accounting

The Forum came to the end of its statutory five year life on 2 April 2005. The Trustees therefore consider it inappropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis and have reflected this in drawing up the accounts.

Recognition of income

Income received for specific purposes, that is restricted income, is included in the income and expenditure account to the extent of the relevant expenditure incurred during the period. Restricted income received but not matched to relevant expenditure during the period is presented as a restricted reserve on the balance sheet. Where sponsorship monies are received but there is no restriction on use they are credited directly to the income and expenditure account.

Contributions in Kind

In accordance with the Accounts Direction provided by the Department for Education and Skills an income value is attributed to Contributions in Kind from business. These contributions are brought into the accounts at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Forum. All gifts in kind represent expenditure which the Forum would have had to incur; a notional expenditure charge is recorded equal to the value of the Contribution in Kind to the Forum.

Grants receivable

Where other grants have been received, these are credited to the income and expenditure account as restricted income.

Investment income and interest receivable

Investment income and interest receivable are included in the financial statements on an accruals basis, and are stated inclusive of related tax credits.

Management and administration

Management and administration costs include expenditure on the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, and an appropriate apportionment of indirect costs.

Allocation of cost between direct provision of education and other expenditure

In accordance with the charities SORP expenditure has been analysed between direct charitable and other expenditure. The only activity undertaken by the EAZ is the operation of North West Shropshire EAZ. Items of expenditure which involve more than one cost category have been apportioned on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis for the cost category concerned, these include

Cost category	Basis of apportionment
Staff costs	Time spent

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, which cost more than £2,500, acquired since the Forum was established are included in the accounts at cost.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Such fixed assets are shown within a restricted fund, as the undepreciated balance on that fund is not available for the Forum to spend. Where assets remain on the balance sheet at the end of the life of the Zone, these will be gifted to Zone schools with the outstanding depreciation charged to the balance of the fixed assets fund.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided evenly on the cost of tangible fixed assets, to write them down to their estimated residual values over their expected useful lives. No depreciation is provided on freehold land. The principal annual rates used for other assets are

Furniture and equipment	33%
Computer equipment and software	33%
Vehicles	20%

Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account as incurred.

Resources expended

Items are included as direct charitable expenditure where, in the view of the Forum, the activities relate to staff costs incurred in direct contact with pupils.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are included at their market value.

Current asset investments are included in the balance sheet at the lower of their original cost and net realisable value.

Stocks

Unused stores are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

Fund structure

Fund balances existing immediately prior to the Zone's closure were transferred to Shropshire County Council LEA to meet outstanding liabilities.

Taxation

The Forum is an exempt charity and as such is exempt from Income and Corporation taxes under the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. The cost of Value Added Tax incurred by the Forum has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Pensions

The full cost of the Forum's pension contributions on behalf of its employees is recognised in the year those contributions are made.

The Zone's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: The Teachers' Superannuation Scheme England and Wales (TSS) and the local Government Superannuation Scheme (LGSS). Both schemes are defined benefit schemes.

2 DfES EAZ grant

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
DfES grant received in period	1,414	724
Carry over from previous period	(35)	0
<i>Less</i>		
Amounts due from DfES	0	0
Amount used to purchase fixed assets	0	(23)
Total grant available to spend	1,379	701
Spent in the period	1,387	736
Underspent grant/[funded from general fund]	(8)	(35)

The Trustees have not calculated a maximum permitted carry over level as the Zone is no longer a going concern.

3 Other DfES grants

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Aim Higher/Excellence Challenge	54	50
Gifted and Talented Summer Schools	4	9
Teacher Threshold	3	0
	61	59

4 Other government grants

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
New Opportunities Fund (NOF)	35	46
Single Regeneration Budget	3	15
Youth Music	5	10
Oswestry Borough Council	0	4
Arts Council	0	20
Shropshire County Council	4	0
	47	95

5 Business contributions

	Cash	In Kind	Total	Total
			Period ended	2002-2003
			2 April 2005	
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Private sector contributions				
A Cooper	0	0	0	1
A Williams	0	1	1	0
Beech Grove - sponsorship and private fundraising	2	0	2	4
British Telecom	0	0	0	2
Bryn Offa - sponsorship and private fundraising	4	0	4	10
Business in Community	0	0	0	7
Cadbury Trebor Bassett	0	0	0	3
Cockshutt - sponsorship and private fundraising	2	0	2	1
Criftins - sponsorship and private fundraising	4	0	4	4
Ellesmere - sponsorship and private fundraising	0	15	15	13
Ellesmere & District Ladies Circle	1	0	1	0
Ellesmere Farmers Ball	1	0	1	0
Ex.Work Experience	0	0	0	44
Friends of Baschurch School	4	0	4	0
Gobowen - sponsorship and private fundraising	5	8	13	9
Ifton Heath - sponsorship and private fundraising	2	4	6	6
JDM Accord	0	0	0	2
Lakelands - sponsorship and private fundraising	6	9	15	6
Maesbury	0	6	6	2
Meyers & Newell	6	0	6	0
Morda - sponsorship and private fundraising	2	0	2	3
A Braddock	0	9	9	0
G Barker	0	1	1	0
W Theedom	0	1	1	0
Oswestry Infants - sponsorship and private fundraising	3	2	5	7
Oswestry PTA	0	0	0	5
Our Lady's - sponsorship and private fundraising	8	11	19	14
P Edwards	0	0	0	1
Prizes	0	1	1	0
Qube	0	5	5	0
Quinta	0	5	5	0
R Burbidge	0	0	0	1
R Cullen	0	0	0	1
Rhyn Park - sponsorship and private fundraising	2	0	2	21
RYLA	0	0	0	4
S Davies & Family	0	1	1	0
S Duncombe	0	7	7	0
Selattyn School - Sponsorship and private fundraising	3	9	12	4
Silo Central	0	13	13	6
Staffordshire BS	0	9	9	0
The Marches - Sponsorship and private fundraising	147	0	147	11
The Meadows - Sponsorship and private fundraising	30	11	41	16
Total Network Solutions	0	0	0	3
Trefonen - Sponsorship and private fundraising	2	4	6	5
Welshampton - Sponsorship and private fundraising	4	0	4	0
Weston Rhyn - Sponsorship and private fundraising	5	1	6	4
Whittington - Sponsorship and private fundraising	6	1	7	19
Woodside - Sponsorship and private fundraising	16	34	50	4
Other individual contributions under £1,000	2	3	5	4
	<u>267</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>247</u>

Included in the above are £138,000 contributions from volunteers donating their time to Zone activities (2003-2004: £97,000).

6 Other income

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Interest receivable	0	1
Sundry income	4	3
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	13	0
	17	4

7 Total resources expended

	Staff £000	Depreciation £000	Other £000	Total Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	Total 2003-2004 £000
Direct provision of education	7	0	0	7	14
Education support costs	276	43	324	643	774
Grants payable*	0	0	1,115	1,115	328
Management and administration	49	0	51	100	84
Costs of generating funds	16	0	0	16	26
Cost of termination of operations	99	0	5	104	0
	447	43	1,495	1,985	1,226

Of which

DfES grant expenditure	321	0	948	1,269	710
Other DfES grant expenditure	7	0	54	61	62
Other government grant expenditure	4	0	53	57	93
Depreciation	0	43	0	43	29
Other expenditure	0	0	435	435	306
Costs of generating funds	16	0	0	16	26
Cost of termination of operations	99	0	5	104	0
	447	43	1,495	1,985	1,226

* In the period ended 2 April 2005 the Zone paid the following individual grants to schools in excess of £5,000

	£
Beech Grove CE Junior School	20,000
Ellesmere Primary School	12,791
Gobowen Primary School	5,854
Ifton Heath Primary School	5,753
The Meadows Primary School	65,200
Our Ladys Roman Catholic School	14,350
Whittington Primary School	7,222
Woodside Primary School	19,500
Lakelands School	14,000
Marches School	228,000
Rhyn Park School	32,253

8 General expenditure

Included in expenditure in the income and expenditure accounts and in other costs above are

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Educational supplies and services	1,438	744
Occupancy costs	4	4
Supplies and services	40	43
Auditor's remuneration	8	6
Costs of termination of operations	5	0
	<u>1,495</u>	<u>797</u>

9 Costs of termination of operations

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Staff costs arising from Zone closure	65	0
Early retirement costs	34	0
	<u>99</u>	<u>0</u>
Costs of post Zone services to be provided by NSB	3	0
Transformation consultancy	2	0
	<u>104</u>	<u>0</u>

10 Staff costs

The average number of persons (including senior postholders and secondees) employed by the EAZ during the period expressed as full time equivalents was

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Management	1	1
Administration	1	1
Teachers	4	5
Other	2	3
Total employees	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Staff costs for the above persons (including secondments)		
Wages and salaries	292	348
Social security costs	24	23
Other pension costs (see note 17)	32	29
Costs associated with Zone closure	99	0
Total staff costs	<u>447</u>	<u>400</u>

Costs associated with Zone closure includes Retention payments (£5,000), Redundancy Payments (£60,000), and Early Retirement Costs (£34,000).

One employee earned more than £50,000 during the period ended 2 April 2005. The total emoluments of this employee (including salary, pension, and retention costs) were in the following range

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
£50,001 - £60,000	0	1
£60,001 - £70,000	1	0

11 Emoluments of Trustees

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Emoluments of Trustees	0	0

The Trustees of the Forum did not receive any payment from the Forum other than the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties. Travel and subsistence expenses reimbursed in the period to 2 April 2005 totalled £nil.

Interests in transactions

It is established practice in the Zone for Forum members to declare an interest in any item which involves the allocation of Zone funds to their institution.

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the Forum has purchased insurance to protect governors and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Forum business. The Forum also insures against any losses of money or goods resulting from fraud or dishonesty by Forum employees.

The insurance provides cover up to £1,000,000 on any one claim for both types of cover and the cost for the period ended 2 April 2005 was £9,188 (2003-2004: £7,875).

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Vehicles £000	Computer equipment and software £000	Total Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	Total 2003-2004 £000
Cost				
Acquired since incorporation				
At 1 April 2004	24	77	101	78
Capital expenditure	0	0	0	23
Disposals	(24)	(77)	(101)	0
At 2 April 2005	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>101</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2004	15	37	52	23
Charged in period	9	34	43	29
Disposals	(24)	(71)	(95)	(0)
At 2 April 2005	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>52</u>
Net book value				
At 2 April 2005	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>49</u>

The net book value at 2 April 2005 represents fixed assets used for

	Vehicles £000	Computer equipment and software £000	Total Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	Total 2003-2004 £000
Charitable purposes				
Educational provision	0	0	0	48
Management and administration	0	0	0	1
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>49</u>

	Total Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	Total 2003-2004 £000
Source of funding for assets acquired		
DfES EAZ grant	0	23
	<u>0</u>	<u>23</u>

14 Stocks

	2 April 2005 £000	31 March 2004 £000
	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

15 Debtors

	2 April 2005 £000	31 March 2004 £000
Prepayments	0	18
Sundry debtors	0	9
Amounts due from DfES	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>27</u>

16 Creditors

	2 April 2005 £000	31 March 2004 £000
Amounts falling due within one year		
Taxation and Social security	0	0
Trade creditors	0	122
Sundry creditors	0	0
Amounts due to DfES	0	0
Accruals	0	15
	<u>0</u>	<u>137</u>

17 Pensions and similar obligations

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Other pension costs comprise		
Defined benefit scheme - regular cost	32	29
Defined contribution scheme	0	0

The Zone's employees belong to the following pension schemes

Teachers' Superannuation Scheme (England and Wales)

Nature of scheme	Defined benefit
Zone's contribution rate in the period ended 2 April 2005	13.50%
Zone's contribution in the period ended 2 April 2005	£25,718

The Teachers' Pension Scheme is an unfunded multi-employer scheme; therefore the Zone is unable to identify its share of the underlying liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Contributions are based on valuations made by the Government Actuary. The actuary's last report was in March 2003 using data primarily from the period April 1996 to March 2001.

Shropshire County Pension Fund (Local Government Pension Scheme - LGPS)

Nature of scheme	Defined benefit
Zone's contribution rate in the period ended 2 April 2005	15.20%
Zone's contribution in the period ended 2 April 2005	£6,482

The Scheme is multi-employer, therefore the Zone is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. The cost of pensions to the LGPS is assessed every three years in accordance with the advice of an independent, qualified actuary. The date of the last full actuarial valuation was 31 March 2004 at which date the scheme was 83% funded. Any liabilities arising from the presence of a pension fund capitalisation deficit, attributable to the Zone staff, will be met by the local education authority and not treated as a cost to the Zone. A one off payment of £33,758 was made in the period ended 2 April 2005, with DfES approval, to meet estimated Pension Liabilities of Zone staff on the LGPS associated with Early Retirement.

18 Restricted funds

The incoming funds of the EAZ comprise the following balances of grants to be applied for specific purposes

	Balance at 1 April 2004 £000	Incoming resources £000	Expenditure gains, losses and transfers £000	Balance at 2 April 2005 £000	Total 31 March 2004 £000
DfES recurrent grant	(35)	1,414	(1,379)	0	(35)
DfES fixed asset grant	49	13	(62)	0	49
Teacher Threshold	0	3	(3)	0	0
Aim Higher/Excellence Challenge	(4)	54	(50)	0	(4)
New Opportunities Fund	10	35	(45)	0	10
Single Regeneration Budget	0	3	(3)	0	0
Summer School	0	4	(4)	0	0
Youth Music	4	5	(9)	0	4
Shropshire County Council	0	4	(4)	0	0
Set up Allowance via LEA	10	0	(10)	0	10
	<u>34</u>	<u>1,535</u>	<u>(1,569)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>34</u>

DfES EAZ recurrent grant must be used for the normal running costs of the EAZ including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance and insurance. The EAZ is allowed to carry forward up to 10% of the grant for programme expenditure and 2% of grant for administrative expenditure.

19 Unrestricted funds

	Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	2003-2004 £000
Brought forward at 1 April 2004	(26)	29
Excess of Income over Expenditure	7	(55)
Transferred from restricted funds	19	0
Carried forward at 2 April 2005	0	(26)

The Zone received £19,000 from the sale of fixed assets and, with DFES approval, the proceeds have been reinvested in achieving the objectives of the Zone. This explains the transfer from restricted to unrestricted funds.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 2 April 2005 are represented by

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total Period ended 2 April 2005 £000	Total 2002-2003 £000
Tangible fixed assets	0	0	0	49
Current assets	0	0	0	96
Current liabilities	0	0	0	(137)
Deferred income	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	8

21 Capital commitments

	2 April 2005 £000	31 March 2004 £000
Contracted for, but not provided in the accounts	0	0
Authorised by Trustees, but not yet contracted	0	0

22 Lease commitments

	2 April 2005 £000	31 March 2004 £000
The payments which the Forum is committed to make in the next period for operating leases		
Within one period	0	4
Two to five periods	0	0

23 Contingent liabilities

As at 2 April 2005 there were no contingent liabilities (£60,000 at 31 March 2004 anticipated in respect of Redundancies).

24 Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash inflow from operating activities

	Period ended	
	2 April 2005	2003-2004
	£000	£000
Net (outgoing) resources	(8)	(97)
Interest received	0	(1)
Depreciation	43	29
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	(13)	0
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	0	0
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	27	(12)
(Decrease) in creditors	(137)	(9)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	(88)	(90)

Accounts Direction given by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, with the approval of the Treasury, in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act

- 1 The Education Action Zone shall prepare accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2000 and subsequent financial years comprising
 - a a Trustees' Report;
 - b a statement of financial activity and an income and expenditure account;
 - c a balance sheet;
 - d a cash flow statement; and
 - e a statement of total recognised gains and losses,including such notes as may be necessary for the purposes referred to in the following paragraphs.
- 2 The accounts shall give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year, and the state of affairs as at the end of the financial year.
- 3 Subject to this requirement, the accounts shall be prepared in accordance with
 - a generally accepted accounting practice in the United Kingdom (UK GAAP), including the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting by Charities. Forums shall not adopt Financial Reporting Standard, Small Entities;
 - b the disclosure and accounting requirements contained in 'The Fees and Charges Guide' (in particular those relating to the need for appropriate segmental information for services or forms of service provided) and in other guidance which the Treasury may issue from time to time in respect of accounts which are required to give a true and fair view;insofar as these are appropriate to North West Shropshire Education Action Zone and are in force for the financial year for which the statement of accounts is to be prepared.
- 4 The statement of financial activity, income and expenditure account and balance sheet shall be prepared under the historical cost convention. Assets and liabilities shall be included in the balance sheet at the following amounts
 - a fixed assets at cost (or valuation) less an appropriate provision for depreciation;
 - b fixed asset investments at market value;
 - c current assets (other than investments) at the lower of cost and net realisable value; and
 - d liabilities at their settlement value.
- 5 The value of contributions from business, both assets and services, should be brought into account at a reasonable estimate of their value to the Forum, i.e. they should be valued at what it would have cost the Forum to have purchased the required asset or service itself.
- 6 This direction shall be reproduced as an appendix to the accounts.

Signed by the authority of the Secretary of State for Education and Skills.

Barnaby Shaw
Head of Standards Division
Department for Education and Skills

26 February 2002

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