

## MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL – 12 November 2018

### AGENDA ITEM 8

#### QUESTIONS RECEIVED FOR CONSIDERATION DURING PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

##### Point 1

On the 19<sup>th</sup> June the Finance Officer presented the Financial Statement to the Governance and Audit Committee for approval prior to external audit. He said **“The first 23 pages are a narrative report, I ask you to read it and tell us if it works what we are trying to say with the narrative report is, this is all you need to read because we are conscious of the fact that not everybody wants to go through all the numbers and statements etc. and so we are trying to get to a succinct document that says this is what West Lindsey is all about.** He then goes on to say **“Over the year we have made a small surplus on service of £150.000 and along with additional Business rates we ended with a surplus of £432.000** This surplus was in fact against a projected Budget set at the beginning of the year for part of the annual outgoings and is in actuality nothing more than a paper exercise.

In actual fact, overall for the year, income was £44.113m and expenditure was £45.701m which means there was a deficit of £1.588m, yet again in the Narrative report, the Finance Officer proudly proclaims **“We have once again shown good financial stewardship and delivered a small profit”**,

At best this is misrepresentation of the facts and I ask that this Council provide a suitable explanation.

##### Point 2

Councillor Summers, in his introduction to the Financial Statement explained about the changes at senior level and how cost savings had been made but I will now ask him in light of these assumed savings why has the overall figure on the ‘Employee, Benefits, Expenses bill risen by £1.1M when equivalent full time staff numbers have reduced by 16 from the previous year.

##### Point 3

Again this is a question for Councillor Summers to answer, can you please explain the following; Published figures in the narrative report state that in 2016/17 the Council had £18.88m of investments but at the end of 2017/18 this figure is now £15.316m and as almost £2.5m was spent on the Keighley Hotel this year it appears that almost £6m has disappeared from the Investment portfolio. I have further questions that require answers but will hold these over to the next meeting.

Regards  
Peter Morley