

# Foreword

This is the 11th edition in an annual series of publications covering local authority financial data which is prepared by Government Statistical Service staff in the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. This edition contains outturn figures for the years up to 1998/99, and budget estimates for 2000/01. Earlier years are covered in some of the tables, particularly those in Chapter 9.

This publication gives an explanation of the local authority financial systems, past and present, and contains commentary and tables, ranging from broad overall summaries e.g. Table 2.1, through to detailed figures such as those given in Annex A. There is also a glossary and index of terms in Annex B. The majority of the tables give total England figures, however some of the tables break the data down to government office regions eg Table 3.2, whilst others give a breakdown by class of authority e.g. Table 3.3. This publication and further summary statistics are available from the Department's local government site on the Internet. The URL is <http://www.local.detr.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfs/lgfs.htm>

Most of the tables have been produced using information from various financial returns made by local authorities to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. The Department wishes to thank the local authorities and other government departments for their co-operation in supplying this information.

We hope that you will find this publication useful and would welcome any comments you may have on it. Please feel free to contact us at the address below.

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