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## Transparency

The Government is committed to increasing transparency across Whitehall and local authorities by publishing data to strengthen accountability to citizens. The first stage is to publish items of spend over £500 – whether they are invitations to tender, contracts or the actual payments.

In addition, statutory procedures governing individuals' rights to inspect councils' accounts on an annual basis are already well established. This is referred to as the 'Public Inspection of Accounts' and takes place around July each year shortly after the financial year end.

### Local Spending Data

Publishing items of expenditure over £500 includes all individual invoices, grant payments, expense payments or other such transactions. This information will be updated on a monthly basis. Publishing this data forms part of our commitment to be open and transparent with our residents.

This data is freely re-usable under the same terms as data.gov.uk

The files will be csv format and pdf format. To view the pdf files you will need a copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader. You can download a free copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com).

### Public Inspection of Accounts

Each year by law, the city council makes available for inspection its accounts and supporting documentation. The period of public inspection lasts for 20 working days and is advertised in advance locally in the press and here on our website.

Further information regarding the Council's finances and individuals' rights to inspect the accounts may be found at <http://www.stoke.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/council-and-democracy/finance/accounts/>

**The date this year is from the 4 July to 29 July 2011.**

The Audit Commission has issued a booklet summarising the rights of individuals to inspect, question and object to our accounts. [Follow this link for a copy of the booklet.](#)

### Important note about CSV files

CSV files can be easily read with a variety of applications. The CSV format uses standard column width and not all entries may be completely visible. To view all data, you will need to expand columns. You can do this by selecting all the cells in the file (grey box beside column A and above row 1) and the clicking on Format > Column > AutoFit Selection.

If you have any questions in connection with the £500 pound spend information please email [spendover500@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:spendover500@stoke.gov.uk) and for questions about the contract and tender information please email [purchasing@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:purchasing@stoke.gov.uk). To see current tendering opportunities click here.

**Related Links**

Corporate Procurement Statement of Accounts 2010 - 2011
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**Related Files:**

Transparency Contracts Awarded since Jan 2011 v June oracle.pdf - Contracts awarded since January 2011 until June 2011[[View](#)][[Save](#)]

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