

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2010

Present

Councillors Ball (Chair), Beckett, Bogle, Fuller (items 24-32 and 36 only), Parnell (items 24-27 and 36 only) and Wells.

Also in attendance:

Mr M Bowers, Audit Commission.

Joanne Anslow, Headteacher, Woodlands Community College for minute 36 only

24. APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Councillors Daunt and R. Williams

25. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 23rd SEPTEMBER AND 10th DECEMBER 2009

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd September and 10th December 2009 be approved and signed as correct records. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

26. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of Appendix 2 to minute 36 based on Categories 2 and 7 of Paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules. The information contained therein is exempt as it relates to ongoing investigations and is likely to reveal the identities of individuals. Having applied the public interest test it is not appropriate to disclose this information. The interests of any parties involved in these investigations could be jeopardised by the release of the information.

27. AUDIT COMMISSION: AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor (Acting) concerning an update on progress against the 2009-10 Audit and Inspection Plan as presented to the 24th June 2009 meeting and setting out the audit and inspection work that the Audit Commission proposes to undertake for the 2008/09 financial year (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the Audit Commission's reports be noted and referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for possible consideration.

28. HIGHWAY SERVICES PARTNERSHIP PROCUREMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor (Acting) concerning a Progress Report from the Audit Commission highlighting key risks and issues associated with the above project in its role of adviser on risks to the Council. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the issues raised by the Audit Commission in Appendix 1 to the report and the Council's response to these issues in Appendix 2 be noted.

29. ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PRUDENTIAL LIMITS 2009/10-2012/13

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Resources concerning the City Council's Prudential Indicators, Treasury Management Strategy and summarising the main activities undertaken during 2009/10 to date. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2010/11 as outlined in the report be endorsed;
- (ii) that it be noted that the indicators as reported have been set on the assumption that the recommendations in the Capital Update report will be approved and that should the recommendations change, the Prudential Indicators may have to be recalculated; and
- (iii) that it be noted that owing to the early timing of the report, amendments may still be required following the finalisation of capital and revenue budgets and therefore any significant changes to the report will be highlighted in the final version presented to Full Council.

30. RISK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2009-10: STATUS REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Resources concerning a Status Report in accordance with the Authority's Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the Risk Management Action Plan 2009-10: Status Report be noted.

31. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2008/09 ACTION PLAN STATUS REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Resources concerning the Annual Governance Statement ('AGS') in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations where the Council is required to complete an Action Plan Status document. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the contents of the AGS 2008-09 Action Plan Status document be noted.

32. NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE 2008-09

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor (Acting) concerning the scope and timing of the national fraud initiative exercise. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the current status of the 2008-09 NFI data matching exercise be noted

33. ASSURANCE MAPPING

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor (Acting) concerning the action taken on risk and internal control related issues identified by the internal and external auditors and other review and inspection bodies. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the position regarding the development of assurance mapping be noted.

34. MONITORING AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Democratic and Members' Services Manager concerning the monitoring and progress of previous committee recommendations. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the action taken since the last meeting be noted.

35. IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning concerning the Council's performance in relation to the target of pupils achieving level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 and performance and attainment in the City's schools more generally. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee be requested to commission and consider a report from the Executive Director and Cabinet member for Children's Services on the Council's performance in relation to the target of pupils achieving level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 and performance and attainment in the City's schools more generally.

36. INTERNAL AUDIT: STATUS OF WORK DECEMBER 2009

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor (Acting) setting out the Internal Audit Status of Work report for the period ending 21st December 2009. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the Internal Audit Status of Work report for the period ending 21st December 2009 be noted.