

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2009

Present

Councillor Ball (Chair), Barnes-Andrews, Bogle (Vice-Chair), Daunt, Fuller and Wells.

Also in attendance:

Mr M Bowers, District Audit Commission.

35. APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Beckett.

36. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2008 be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

37. 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 Item 41 which is based on Categories 2 and 7 of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules. The information contained within the report is exempt from publication as it relates to individual personal details and information held under the Data Protection Act 1998. Having applied the public interest test it is not appropriate to disclose this information as the individuals' legal expectation of privacy outweighs the public interest in the exempt information.

38. NATIONAL FRAUD INITIATIVE 2008-09

The Committee received and noted the report of the Chief Internal Auditor on the initial output from the 2008-09 National Fraud Initiative (NFI) data matching exercise and the proposed overall approach to the investigation of the matches. The NFI is run every two years by the Audit Commission and seeks to tackle a broad range of fraud risks faced by the public sector. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

39. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2008-09

The Committee received the report of the Executive Director of Resources concerning the process developed to support the development of the mandatory Annual Governance Statement ('AGS') which is intended to set out and comment on the Council's corporate governance arrangements

that were in place during 2008-09. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the assurance gathering process to support the development of a robust Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 1) as set out in the in the report be approved; and
- (ii) that the Audit Committee's role in the AGS process be noted.

40. INTERNAL AUDIT: REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN 2007/08 TO 2009/2010

The Committee received and noted the report of the Chief Internal Auditor requesting that the Committee comments on and approves the Revised Strategic Internal Plan 2007/08 to 2009/2010. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Revised Strategic Internal Audit Plan for 2007/08 to 2009/10 as appended to the report be approved;
- (ii) that the Solicitor to the Council be requested to arrange appropriate training for members and officers regarding partnership working under the new Partnership code; and
- (iii) that the briefing arranged by the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Audit Commission for members in respect of Comprehensive Area Assessments (CAA) on 11th May, 2009 be noted.

41. INTERNAL AUDIT: STATUS OF WORK TO FEBRUARY 2009

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor, and noted the Internal Audit: Status of Work report for the period ending 16th February, February 2009. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the Executive Director of Environment be requested to report to the next meeting providing an overview of the current situation and the way forward concerning planning approvals subject to Section 106 Agreements under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

42. ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING POLICY – REVIEW

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor concerning a review in line with good practice of the Council's arrangements and Anti Money Laundering policy in light of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounts ("CIPFA") recently published guidance 'Managing the Risk of Fraud'. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED that the updated Anti Money Laundering Policy as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

43. AUDIT COMMISSION: ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2007/08

The Committee received the report of the Chief Internal Auditor presenting the results of the statutory audit of the Council's 2007/08 Financial Accounts and noted the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2007/08. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

43. AUDIT COMMISSION: AUDIT AND INSPECTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received and noted the report of the Chief Internal Auditor on the updating progress against the 2008-09 Audit and Inspection Plan as reported to the meeting on 27th March 2008 setting out the audit and inspection work that the Audit Commission proposed to undertake for the 2007/08 financial year. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

44. MONITORING AUDIT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee received and noted the report of the Democratic Support and Members Services Manager requesting that the Committee considers the actions taken since its last meeting. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).