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STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2009

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Present:

Members of the Council

Councillors Barnes-Andrews, Baston, Cooke, Mizon, Osmond and Slade.

Independent Members

Mr David Blake, Ms Katerina Mesmer and Mr Geoff Wilkinson

Apologies

Councillors Burke and Mr Brian Hooper (Chair).

Also in attendance:

Ms K Handy and Mr M Bowers, Audit Commission.

14. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Standards and Governance Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of Minutes circulated with agenda and appended to the signed Minutes).

15. **AUDIT COMMISSION: ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2008/09**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Internal Auditor concerning the Annual Audit Letter presenting the results of the statutory audit of the Council's 2008/09 financial statements and the results of the work undertaken to assess arrangements to secure value for money in the use of resources. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

Ms K Handy, District Auditor was in attendance for this item and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The Committee noted that with regard to Key Messages Section 8 page 4 – Actions contained in the District Auditor's Letter, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning had been requested to report to the Audit Committee in January, 2010 to discuss the action being taken and proposed to address performance and attainment in the City's schools.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the contents and the comments of the District Auditor's Annual Letter 2008/09 be noted; and
- (ii) that the Committee expressed its deep concern regarding Key Messages Section 8 page 4 – Actions contained in the Letter and further noted the request from the Audit Committee requesting the Executive Director of

Children's Services and Learning to submit a report to the January, 2010 meeting on the levels of educational performance and attainment in the City's schools advising and informing on the action being taken and proposed together with an overview of the use of financial resources; and

- (iii) that the Audit Committee meeting would consider the above report in public session and members of the Standards and Governance Committee were entitled to attend as members of the public.