

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2007**

Present: Councillors Mrs J I Hully (Chairman) J G Sunderland (Deputy Chairman); R Pitt; Mrs C Watson.

Officers: G Ayling, Interim Head of Finance and Business Development; M Robinson, Audit and Fraud Prevention Manager; K Dowle, Fraud Prevention Team Leader; T Capper Democratic Services Manager.

D McHale, District Audit

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **AU 21     Fraud Quarterly Monitoring Report**

Consideration was given to a report of the District Auditor's Financial Systems Interim Report and an Action plan setting out proposed measures to deal with issues raised, which related to the lack of regular reconciliations in certain areas of the Council's systems and risks in relation to the IT control environment.

During the discussion on this item it was noted that there was a current need to use temporary staffing in certain areas due to vacancies in certain key posts.

**RESOLVED** – that (a) the external auditor's Financial Systems Interim Report be noted and the Action Plan approved; and

(b) the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee be informed of this Committee's concern at current problems being encountered by the Council over recruitment and retention of staff.

#### **AU 19     Audited Final Accounts and Annual Governance Report**

The District Audit representative reported orally that there had been a formal objection to the Council's 2006/2007 Audited Accounts, and the objection would be the subject of an investigation by the District Auditor. The issue of the District Auditor's Annual Governance Report would therefore be delayed pending the outcome of this investigation. The position was noted by the Committee.

**AU 20     Revised Audit Services Charter**

The Committee considered a revised Audit Services Charter which took account of the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government issued in 2006.

**RESOLVED** – that the revised Audit Charter be approved, subject to clarification of paragraph 4 to the effect that bids for additional resources are made through the budget process.

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm

Chairman