

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2008

Present: Councillors G Scurrah; J G Sunderland; Mrs M Woodburn

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Bowman; S Meter & D Wilson

C Whiteside also attended the meeting in accordance with Standing Orders

Officers: K Parker, Acting Corporate Director, Quality of Life; M Robinson, Audit and Fraud Prevention Manager; J Crellin, Head of Finance and Management Information Systems; P Robson; Acting Accountancy Services Manager; D James Member Services Officer.

K Murray & R McGahon Audit Commission

AU 36 Appointment of Chairman for the meeting

It was moved by Councillor M Woodburn duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That Councillor G Sunderland be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

AU 37 Minutes

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on held on 29 October 2008 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AU 38 Statements of Accounts

(Note Councillor C Whiteside left the meeting during consideration of this item)

Consideration was given to the restated unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2007/08. The accounts, when previously put before Members were found to contain material errors and it was agreed that rather than amend them they would be reperformed prior to them being adopted and subsequently made available for public inspection.

K Murray advised that although some of the amendments had been picked up it may not be all of them as they had not been audited. It was noted that the 06/07 accounts still needed to be signed off to provide an opening figure for 07/08.

Members asked the Head of Finance and IT Systems if she was happy to sign them off and she confirmed that she was.

It was therefore moved duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That taking on board comments and amendments the unaudited accounts for 2007/08 be adopted.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm

Chairman

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING SPECIAL HELD ON 7 JANUARY 2009

Present: Councillors J Bowman; S Meteer; G Scurrah; J G Sunderland; D Wilson; Mrs M Woodburn.

Also in attendance: Councillors E Woodburn, Leader of the Council; A Holliday, Deputy Leader, Effective Leadership

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J Hully

Officers: F McMorrow, Director of Development (AU 41); K Parker, Acting Corporate Director, Quality of Life (AU 41); J Crellin, Head of Finance and Management Information Systems; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager.

AU 39 Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting

It was moved by Councillor G Scurrah, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That Councillor G Sunderland be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

AU 40 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED – that the press and public be excluded for the remaining items of business in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 (AU 41) and 3 (AU42) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

AU 41 Appointment of Independent Chair of Audit Committee

The Committee interviewed one candidate for the position of co-opted Member and Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.

RESOLVED – that the Council be recommended that Mr Michael Bonner be appointed as a co-opted Member and Independent Chair of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2008/2009 municipal year.

AU 42 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 Accounts

(The Chairman agreed to consideration of this item on grounds of urgency due to the need to receive the Audit Commission progress report as soon as possible)

Mr Mark Heap and Mr Richard McGahon of the Audit Commission attended for this item.

The Audit Commission representatives presented their interim report on progress in finalising the 2006/2007 audit of accounts and on the 2007/2008 accounts. It was noted that the Audit Commission's final view on the accounts would be included in the Annual Governance Report to be submitted to the meeting of this Committee on 6 March 2009.

Following a discussion with the Audit Commission representatives on details of the matters remaining outstanding in respect of both sets of financial statements, it was

RESOLVED – that the Committee notes the report and is satisfied that adequate resources are in place to address the remaining outstanding matters as highlighted in the Audit Commission report.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm

Chairman