

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2012

Present: Mr Michael Bonner (Independent Chair)

Councillors Yvonne Clarkson; Peter Connolly; Joan Hully; Graham Sunderland;
Carole Woodman

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Riley and Doug
Wilson

Councillor John Bowman also attended the meeting.

Officers: Darienne Law, Head of Corporate Resources; Angela Brown,
Accountant; Peter Usher, Audit Services Manager; Tim Capper, Democratic
Services Manager; Denise James, Member Services Officer

Penny Mell, Head of Policy and Transformation Agenda Items
Anne Treble, Project Accountant; Leanne Barwise, Senior Accountancy Officer

Also in attendance: Jackie Bellard and Richard McGahon, Audit Commission

AU 13 **Minutes**

RESOLVED – That subject to the inclusion of Paul Walker at Tim Capper in the
list of attendances the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2012 be signed
as a correct record.

AU 14 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Joan Hully declared a non-pecuniary interest in issues relating to
Members allowances, travel scheme and mobile phones due to being in receipt
and Agenda Item 6 due to being a director of Regeneration North East
Copeland.

Councillor Graham Sunderland declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda
item 6 due to being a private landlord.

AU 15 **Arrangement of the Agenda**

RESOLVED – That that Agenda item 9 Code of Conduct – Members Interests be considered as Item 8 on the Agenda

AU 16 **Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2012/13**

The Committee considered a report on work carried out by Internal Audit in the first quarter of 2012/13.

During consideration of this item Members noted that the feedback from the performance workshops would be reported back informally to the Committee with a possible meeting with the Portfolio holder.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

AU 17 **Statements of Accounts**

Members received a verbal update on the current situation with regard to the Statement of Accounts.

AU 18 **Code of Conduct Members Interests**

Consideration was given to a report setting out further proposals for recommendation to Council, including additional categories of members' interests to be included in the Council's Code of Conduct, in addition to those prescribed statutorily as Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

RESOLVED – That (a) Council be recommended to approve the additional categories of interests set out in paragraph 2.1 be included in the Council's Code of Conduct;

(b) Council be recommended to approve that all Member with interests with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other interests in business to be transacted at a meeting should declare those interests at the start of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of them, irrespective of whether those interests have already been registered;

(c) Council be recommended to approve that the requirement for a Member with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest to leave the room during the discussion of the business in which he/she has the interest, and the amendment of the Council Procedure Rules giving effect to this is, be approved;

(d) the position on declaration of other interests be noted;

(e) Council be recommended to approve the sanctions set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report be agreed as those that will be available to hearings when an allegation that a Member has breached the Code of Conduct is proven; and

(f) Council be recommended to approve that the Code of Conduct and associated protocols are subject of a full review in 6 months to coincide with the half yearly report.

AU 19 Code of Conduct and Members Interests – Dispensations

Consideration was given to a report detailed arrangements for dealing with dispensations.

RESOLVED – That

(a) it be noted that dispensations can only be granted for Members affected by Disclosable Pecuniary Interests;

(b) the circumstances in which dispensations can be granted as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report be noted;

(c) the criteria for assessment and determination of applications for dispensations as set out in Appendix “A” of the report be agreed; and

(d) it be agreed that in the first instance all applications for dispensations are determined by this Committee, but that this arrangement is kept under review, and consideration given in future to possible delegation of determination of certain categories of dispensation to a Sub Committee or to the Monitoring Officer.

AU 20 Code of Conduct – Guidance for Members

Consideration was given to a report setting out proposed guidance for Members on all aspects of the new standards regime and asking for its endorsement prior to being distributed to Members and Parish Councils.

RESOLVED – That the draft Guidance on the Code of Conduct be endorsed and issued to Members and Parish Councils.

AU 21 Audit Committee to Meet with the Auditor in Private

Audit Committee Members met in private with the Auditors.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Chairman

Date

