

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2010**

Present: Mr M Bonner, Independent Chairman

Councillors: R Pitt; G Scurrah; J G Sunderland; D Wilson

Officers: K Parker, Acting Corporate Director, Quality of Life; A Clark, Accountancy Services Manager; M Robinson, Audit and Fraud Prevention Officer; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; J Salt Head of Customer Services; H Mitchell Head of Policy and Performance; J Betteridge Head of Development Strategy

Also in attendance: R McGahon, Audit Commission and Councillor J Bowman

#### **AU 123 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2010 be signed by the chairman as a correct record.

#### **AU 124 Audit and Inspection Fees**

The Committee received and noted a report of the Audit Commission setting out proposed fees for audit and inspection work to be carried out at the Council in 2010/2011.

#### **AU 125 Role of the Audit Committee**

In place of the proposed presentation the Chairman reminded the Committee of the roles and responsibilities of the Audit Committee.

#### **AU 126 Audit Commission Re-Inspection of Strategic Housing**

The Committee considered a report on the Audit Commission re-inspection of the Strategic Housing Service in October 2009, which assessed the performance of the service against the Key Lines of Enquiry. The report set out the recommendations of the re-inspection.

**RESOLVED** – That the report and the Council's activity in working with the Audit Commission to develop a SMART action plan to deliver improvements be noted.

#### **AU 127 Audit Commission Benefits Service Inspection**

The Committee considered a report setting out the findings and recommendations from the Audit Commission's inspection of the

Benefits Service carried out against the Key Lines of Inquiry for assessing performance.

**RESOLVED** – that the report and the action plan for delivering improvements be noted.

**AU 128 Audit Services Annual Report on Internal Control**

The Committee received the annual report from internal Audit on including a review of systems of internal control, significant issues arising, and audit performance against the approved audit plan for 2009/2010.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted.

**AU 129 Effectiveness of System of Internal Audit 2009/2010**

The Committee considered a report setting out an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal audit in 2009/2010 following a review by Corporate Team and an external auditor.

**RESOLVED** –that the report be noted and the areas for improvement set out in Appendix "A" be endorsed.

**AU 130 Corporate Governance 2009/2010**

Consideration was given to a report evaluating compliance in 2009/2010 with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework, summarising progress with corporate governance arrangements since the previous year and detailing outstanding issues as set out in Appendix "B".

**RESOLVED** – the report and its contribution to the Annual Governance Statement be noted.

**AU 131 Strategic Risk Register**

The Committee considered the Council's Strategic Risk Register for February 2010. It was noted that the score for risk 16 was level A2.

**RESOLVED** – that the Strategic Risk Register for February 2010 be noted and endorsed.

**AU 132 Annual Governance Statement May 2010**

Consideration was given to the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2009/2010.

Following discussion it was agreed that references in the draft to the vacancy in the S 151 Officer post should be deleted and the table be redrawn picking up weaknesses referred to in the text.

**RESOLVED** – that the draft be agreed subject to the amendments discussed.

**AU 133 Closure of Accounts**

The Acting S 151 Officer gave an oral update on progress in closure of the 2009/2010 accounts. The Acting Corporate Director also reported on additional resources being deployed to assist in ensuring closure progressed satisfactorily to the statutory deadlines.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Committee expressed their gratitude to the Accountancy team for their work on closure of the accounts in difficult circumstances following the departure of the Head of Finance and MIS.

**AU 134 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 paragraph 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

**AU 135 Internal Audit Shared Service Business Case**

The Committee received a progress report on the Internal Audit shared service business case, which was noted.

**AU 136 Private Meeting with Auditors**

Audit Committee Members met in private with the Auditors.

Chairman .....

Date .....