

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2008

Present: Councillors J Bowman; S Meter; G Scurrah; J G Sunderland for both parts of the meeting

Apologies for absence were received for both parts of the meeting from Councillors; Mrs J Hully, Deputy Chairman; D Wilson; Mrs M Woodburn

An apology for absence was received for the 26 June 2008 from G Ayling, Interim Head of Finance and Business Development

Officers: M Robinson, Audit and Fraud Prevention Manager; P Robson, Acting Accountancy Services manager, D A James Member Services Officer for both parts of the meeting

L Murphy, Chief Executive, Agenda Items 6 & 7 on the 26 June 2008

A Wilson & B Lennox – Audit Commission 26 June 2008 meeting only

Minutes

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on held on 4 June 2008 be signed as a correct record.

AU 11 Appointment of Chairman for the meeting

It was moved by Councillor Scurrah duly seconded and

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

AU 12 External Audit Plan & Fee

RESOLVED - That the report of the District Auditors report on the External Audit Plan & Fee was submitted and noted.

AU 13 2006/07 Revised Accounts

District Audit, as yet, have been unable to certify the Councils accounts for 2006/07 as there have been issues which are still outstanding. It was noted that these issues were now close to being resolved and a revised set of accounts were put before Members for consideration. District Audit advised that the accounts should be in a position to be certified in September.

RESOLVED – That the revised accounts for 2006/07 be noted.

AU 14 **2007/08 Statements of Accounts**

Consideration was given to the Council's statement of accounts 2007/08. During consideration it was noted that there were several omissions from the statutory requirements.

Due to the time limit for meeting approaching, it was moved duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Standing order 13.1.a the meeting continue in the normal manner and complete that business remaining on the Agenda.

Further discussions took place on the accounts for 2007/08 and it was noted that due to the omissions already identified, the accounts were not ready to be signed off by the Chairman. It was felt that the best way forward was to adjourn the meeting to allow further work to be done to comply with the statutory requirements in respect of the Statement of Accounts.

It was therefore moved by Councillor S Meter, duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That the meeting be adjourned at 5.15pm and reconvened on the 30 June 2008 at 1.30PM

The meeting reconvened at 1.50PM on the 30 June 2008

Members were updated on works completed on the 2007/08 accounts since the 26 June it was noted that the omissions previously identified had been addressed. However a certain amount of formatting still needed to be done. Members thanked officers for all their hard work in bringing the accounts to this meeting.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** – That a) officers be thanked for their hard work;

b) subject to make minor amendments as identified re formatting and cross referencing the accounts be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Audit Committee.

AU 15 **Supplementary Report – Vat Sharing Agreement**

During the first part of the meeting Members asked for the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to give his interpretation on the Vat Sharing Agreement between the Council with Copeland Homes following the transfer of the Council owned houses. This interpretation would confirm

that the correct interpretation had been used in the statements of accounts 2007/08.

With the permission of the Chairman Members received a report confirming that in the opinion of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services the Vat Sharing Agreement was as stated by the Accountancy Services Manager in the first part of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 2.05pm

Chairman