

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2009

Present: M Bonner, Independent Chair

Councillors J Bowman; S Meteer; G Scurrah; J G Sunderland; D Wilson

An apology for absence was received from Councillors J Hully and M Woodburn

Also present: Councillors Y Clarkson; E Eastwood; A Jacob; D Moore; C Whiteside; E Woodburn.

Officers: F McMorrow, Acting Chief Executive; J Crellin, Head of Finance and Management Information Systems; M Robinson, Audit and Fraud Prevention Manager; T Capper, Democratic Services Manager; H Mitchell, Head of Policy and Performance; A Clark, Accountancy Services Manager.

Also in attendance: M Heap, R McGahon, I Boyt, Audit Commission

AU 47 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 4 February 2009 were signed by the chairman as a correct record.

AU 48 Annual Governance Report and Letter of Representation 2006/2007

The Audit Commission representatives presented the Annual Governance Report for 2006/2007, in respect of financial statements, statement of internal control and value for money, and an action plan setting out proposals for implementing recommendations in the report.

The Committee also considered the draft Letter of Representation to the Audit Commission in respect of 2006/2007. It was noted that there would be a requirement for an additional explanation of a post-balance sheet adjustment relating to asset valuations before the accounts could be signed off.

RESOLVED – that

- (a) the District Auditor's report and the matters referred to in it be noted;
- (b) the adjustments to the financial statements as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be agreed;

(c) the Head of Finance and Management Information Systems in consultation with the Audit Commission be authorised to agree an explanation of a post-balance sheet adjustment relating to asset valuations, and subject thereto the Letter of Representation be agreed; and

(d) the Action Plan at Appendix 5 of the report be agreed.

AU 49 Statement of Internal Control 2006/2007

The Committee considered a revised Statement of Internal Control for 2006/2007 which included amendments recommended by the District Auditor not incorporated in the version previously agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED – that the Statement of Internal Control for 2006/2007 as set out in Appendix “B” to the report be approved.

AU 50 Annual Governance Report and Letter of Representation 2007/2008

The Audit Commission representatives presented the Annual Governance Report for 2007/2008, in respect of financial statements, statement of internal control and value for money, and an action plan setting out proposals for implementing recommendations in the report

The Committee also considered the draft Letter of Representation to the Audit Commission in respect of 2007/2008. It was noted that there would be a requirement for an additional explanation of a post-balance sheet adjustment relating to asset valuations before the accounts could be signed off.

RESOLVED – that

(a) the District Auditor’s report and the matters referred to in it be noted;

(b) the adjustments to the financial statements as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be agreed;

(c) the Head of Finance and Management Information Systems in consultation with the Audit Commission be authorised to agree an explanation of a post-balance sheet adjustment relating to asset valuations, and subject thereto the Letter of Representation be agreed; and

(d) the Action Plan at Appendix 5 of the report be agreed.

AU 51 Annual Governance Statement 2007/2008

The Committee considered a revised Annual Governance Statement for 2007/2008 which included amendments recommended by the District Auditor not incorporated in the version previously agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED – that the Annual Governance Statement for 2007/2008 as set out in Appendix “C” to the report be approved.

AU 52 Use of Resources Assessment 2007/2008

The Committee considered the Audit Commission’s Use of Resources Assessment evaluating the Council’s management and use of resources against five themes and key lines of enquiry, and the associated Action Plan setting out action already taken and further measures planned to address the issues identified in the Report.

RESOLVED – that the report and contents be noted and the Action Plan agreed.

AU 53 Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2007/2008

The Committee considered the Audit Commission’s Annual Audit and Inspection Letter for 2007/2008, giving the overall assessment of the Council’s performance, noting progress made in improvements in services, and identifying action needed to address areas of weakness.

RESOLVED – that the report and recommendations and conclusions be noted and agreed.

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm

Chairman