

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: Mr Michael Bonner (Independent Chair)

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

An apology for absence as received from Councillor David Riley

Councillor Gillian Troughton also attended the meeting.

Officers: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager; Carole Edgar Financial Accountant; Anne Treble, Project Accountant; Simon Smith, Senior Manager – Audit Shared Service; Wendy Halbert, Principal Auditor; Denise James, Member Services Officer

Angela Brown, Accountant Agenda Items 1 - 11

Julie Betteridge Head of Development Strategy – Agenda Item 12 Partnership Review

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

AU 22 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AU 23 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Joan Hully declared a non-pecuniary interest in issues relating to Concessionary Travel and the Nuclear Industry due to being in receipt of and concessionary fares and income from the Nuclear Industry.

Councillors Yvonne Clarkson and Graham Sunderland declared Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in page 132 of the Audited Statement of Accounts and left the meeting during its consideration.

AU 24 Arrangement of the Agenda

RESOLVED – That a report on the Partnership Review be considered at Item 12 of the Agenda.

AU 25 Accounts Briefing Session

Prior to consideration of Agenda Item 8 – Audited Statement of Accounts Members received a full briefing session which was open to question and answers.

AU 26 Audit Commission Annual Governance Statement

Consideration was given to the Audit Commission Annual Governance Statement setting out the external audit opinion on the financial statements and on value for money, on an exception basis.

During consideration of this item the Auditor commended staff in the finance team for their assistance and improvement made.

RESOLVED – That a) the report be noted; and

b) the action plan be confirmed.

AU 27 Audited Statements of Accounts

Prior to consideration of this item members thanked Officers for the briefing session.

The Committee received and discussed the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2012.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and approved for signature on the Committee's behalf.

AU 28 Letter of Representation

The Committee considered the proposed letter of representation from The Head of Corporate Resources (s151 Officer) on behalf of the Council to the Audit Commission to enable the final sign-off of the 20011/12 accounts.

RESOLVED – That the letter of representation be agreed and signed as submitted.

AU 29 Local Audit Bill Consultation and Other Consultations

Consideration was given to a report providing Members with an update on the Local Audit Bill consultation and the response submitted on behalf of Internal Audit Shared Service participants.

RESOLVED – That the response submitted on behalf of Internal Audit Shared Service participants, and the on-going consultation with CIPFA on internal audit standards and the Annual Governance Statement, be noted.

AU 30 Dispensations

(Councillor Peter Connolly left the meeting during consideration of this item)

Consideration was given to report seeking approval for the granting of dispensations to some Members to enable them to participate in discussion and vote on matters relating to the nuclear industry and the disposal of nuclear waste.

RESOLVED – That dispensations be granted to Councillors David Banks; Geoff Blackwell; Karl Connor; Jon Downie; Phil Greateorex; Peter Kane; Alistair Norwood; David Riley; Sam Pollen; Gillian Troughton; Doug Wilson and Felicity Wilson to both participate and vote for the remainder of the current Council term (May 2015).

AU 31 Governance Issues

It was **NOTED** that reports on

- a) Dispensations – Proposals for further Delegations; and
 - b) Involvement of Parishes in Local Determination of Complaints
- would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

AU 32 Partnership Review

Members received a verbal update on the current position with regard to the Partnership Review. It was noted that a full report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

AU 33 Audit Committee to Meet with the Auditor in Private

Audit Committee Members met in private with the Auditors.

The meeting closed at 12.55pm

Chairman

Date