

SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday 29 July 2005 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor David Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Rose Martin (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Keith Chambers
Councillor Albert Griffiths
Councillor Desmond Pitt
Councillor Mrs. Doreen Shires

204/05 Apology

An apology for non-attendance was received on behalf of Councillor Ian Robertson.

205/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

206/05 Deputations and Petitions

There were no deputations or petitions .

207/05 Late items to be introduced by the Chairman

There were no late items.

208/05 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and by reason of Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

In order to receive the advice of the Chief Internal Auditor before making a decision on the Annual Statement of Accounts 2004/05, the Committee agreed to take item 8 in the private session of the agenda first.

Private Session

209/05 Exclusion of public

Resolved

That during consideration of the item on the agenda, the Committee considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of the appropriate paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, and accordingly resolves to consider this item in private.

210/05 Annual Report of the Chief Internal Auditor on the overall adequacies of the Internal Control Environment

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Chief Internal Auditor (Mr. Blacker) presented the report and responded to questions from Members. A discussion then took place, during which time Members requested that refresher training, dealing with the internal control arrangements, be provided for Members of the Committee (at the same time as the proposed risk management training).

A further short period of debate ensued following which it was:-

Resolved

That the report be noted.

(Exempt information under paragraphs 1, 3, 5 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972)

Public Session

211/05 Annual Statement of Accounts 2004/05

The report of the Executive Director was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Assistant Director of Finance, Andy Burns, and the Capital and Performance Treasury Manager, Mike Tomlinson, attended and gave a presentation on the Statement of Accounts and Financial Statements.

A discussion took place during which time Mr. Burns and Mr. Tomlinson responded to a number of questions and points of clarification, particularly in respect of investments, debtors, reserves, Government grants and also the supporting evidence upon which the 3 signatories satisfied themselves before approving the Statement.

Members also requested that, in future, information should be provided on the percentage interest rates for both investments and borrowing. It was suggested that some thought should be given to the provision of a more user friendly guide to the Statement for members of the public. Mr. Burns undertook to look into this.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That the draft Statement of Accounts attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved in order that they may be placed on deposit for public inspection for 20 working days commencing 3 August 2005;
- (2) That the Committee notes that the draft Statement of Accounts were submitted for external audit on 22 July 2005;
- (3) That the statutory determination set out in paragraph 2 of the main report and Appendix 2 to this report be endorsed.

Termination of Meeting

The meeting terminated at 7.35 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: