

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference Room, Council House, Walsall**

### **Present**

Councillor Turner (Chairman)  
Councillor Rochelle (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Chambers  
Councillor Douglas-Maul  
Councillor Flower  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor D. Shires

#### **787/11 Apologies**

There were no apologies submitted for non-attendance.

#### **788/11 Minutes**

##### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2010, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **789/11 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **790/11 Deputations and Petitions**

There were no deputations submitted or petitions received.

- 791/11      **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**
- Resolved**
- That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private part of the agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.
- 792/10      **Notification of any issues of importance for consideration at a future meeting**
- No issues of importance for consideration at a future meeting were reported.
- 793/11      **Corporate Risk Management Training Presentation**
- A presentation was delivered:-
- (see annexed)
- Ann Johnson (Corporate Risk and Project Manager) delivered a training presentation to Members on the Corporate Risk Register and the various processes that were involved.
- A discussion ensued and following lengthy deliberations, Councillors Douglas-Maul and Flower sought further assurances regarding the Council's information security and to ensure that there was no loss of data. Rebecca Neill stated that Members could obtain assurance on this via Internal Audit's information management audit which is undertaken as part of the section's computer audit work. Furthermore, Rebecca reported that she would be happy to come back to a future meeting with more detail on this matter, should Members wish.
- Resolved**
- That the presentation be noted.
- 794/11      **Programme and Project Management/Working Smarter Training Presentation**
- A presentation was delivered:-
- (see annexed)
- Carol Williams, Head of Programme Delivery, and Paul Milmore, Head of Business Solutions, were in attendance and delivered a presentation on programme and project management and working smarter.

A discussion ensued and Members asked various questions.

Of particular note, Councillor Douglas-Maul applauded the officers for using in-house expertise rather than employing contractors and he stated that this should be rolled out across the Council.

Councillor Chambers wished to receive more information on what Finance Direct was. Carol Williams agreed to contact Councillor Chambers outside the meeting to provide him with the information.

Councillor Chambers commented that he was of the opinion that the hiring of recruitment consultants should also stop in view of the significant costs involved at the Council's expense.

In relation to the working smarter part of the presentation, Councillor Robertson sought assurances that the delivery of better services for cheaper was measurable and auditable and Councillor Flower sought assurances that the various working smarter projects were continually monitored and improved.

### **Resolved**

That the presentation be noted.

795/11

### **International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Richard Walley, Lead Accountant, Financial Reporting and Capital, was in attendance and highlighted the salient points contained within his report.

### **Resolved**

That the progress in respect of the conversions to IFRS and the format of the revised accounting statements be noted.

796/11

### **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Jamie Morris, Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services, was in attendance and highlighted the salient points contained within his report.

Of particular note, Jamie Morris highlighted that the responsible officer for RIPA used to be Rory Borealis, however, with Rory's change in focus to the working smarter programme, Jamie had now been designated as the responsible officer for RIPA.

There then followed a period of questioning by Members in relation to:-

- If it proved cost effective to investigate incidents of fly tipping against the fact that sometimes investigations lead to no outcome
- What the Council's legal position was in relation to sickness surveillance
- What the reason was for the downward trend in relation to the number of cases being investigated
- Whether it might be more cost effective to allow trade services to use Council tips free of charge and whether this might decrease the number of cases of fly tipping

In relation to another matter, Councillor Douglas-Maul wished to know how long the Council could legally hold photographic evidence in relation to employees in the instance of an employment tribunal. Rebecca Neill reported that she believed it was seven years following the last legal action taken against the employee. Furthermore, Rebecca agreed to check this information and contact Councillor Douglas-Maul directly should it be any different.

### **Resolved**

That:-

- (1) The surveillance activities and the take-up by the Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2010 be noted;
- (2) The change in senior responsible officer from Rory Borealis, Executive Director, Resources to Jamie Morris, Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services, be noted.

797/11

### **Annual Audit Letter 2009/10**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Jon Roberts, from Grant Thornton UK, was present and highlighted the salient points contained in his report. In doing so, Mr. Roberts pointed out that the report was just on the annual audit letter 2009/10 and not the inspection letter as identified on the agenda erroneously.

Councillor Chambers drew to Mr. Roberts' attention that there was an error on page 7 of his report under 3.10 where it referred to an independent Audit Committee whereas it should have referred to an independent Audit Member. Mr. Roberts agreed to rectify the error in the final document.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

798/11

**Private Session**

**Exclusion of Public**

**Resolved**

That, during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Committee considers that the item for consideration is exempt information by virtue of the appropriate Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, and accordingly resolves to consider that item in private session.

799/11

**Internal Audit Revised Work Plan 2010/11**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Rebecca Neill, Head of Internal Audit, presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

**Resolved**

That:-

- (1) The amendments to the Internal Audit Work Plan for 2010/11, as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report, be endorsed;
- (2) The progress against the Internal Audit Work Plan for 2010/11 be noted.

(Exempt information under Paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

800/11

## **Internal Audit Proposed Work Plan 2011/12**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Rebecca Neill, Head of Internal Audit, presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

### **Resolved**

That:-

- (1) The proposed Internal Audit Work Plan coverage for 2011/12 be received;
- (2) That it be noted that the proposed Plan will be discussed with Executive Directors and their management teams prior to subsequent approval by the Council's Section 151 officer;
- (3) That it be noted that the final Work Plan will be presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and the Audit Committee for formal endorsement.

(Exempt information under Paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

### **Termination of meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.10 p.m.

Chair: .....

Date: .....