

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Monday, 1st December, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Martin (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Rochelle
Councillor D. Shires
Ms. K.M. McLeod (Independent Member)

545/08 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chambers and Robertson.

546/08 **Death of Councillor Micklewright**

The Chairman drew attention to the untimely death of Councillor Micklewright on 22nd November, 2008. Councillor Micklewright had been appointed to the Committee by Council and this would have been her first meeting.

The Committee stood in silence in remembrance of Councillor Micklewright.

547/08 **Appointment of Councillor Rochelle**

Councillor Turner welcomed Councillor Rochelle as a new Member of the Committee. He thanked Councillors C. Bott and Clarke for their services to the Committee.

548/08 **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Resolved

That Councillor Martin be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

549/08

Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October, 2008, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

550/08

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

551/08

Deputations and Petitions

No deputations were received or petitions submitted.

552/08

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.

553/08

Presentations

Treasury Management and Management of Risk

The Corporate Finance and Treasury Manager made a PowerPoint presentation with the aid of slides regarding treasury management and management of risk. A copy of the slides was handed to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

He went on to explain what treasury management involved; gave information on where the Council invested its money and gave re-assurance on the security of those investments.

The Chairman asked that relevant parts of the presentation be made available on the Council's internet site.

Resolved

That the presentation be noted.

Emergency Planning and Risk Continuity

The Emergency Planning Manager made a PowerPoint presentation with the aid of slides regarding emergency planning and risk continuity.

He stated that Risk 2 on the risk register related to an incident occurring and there being insufficient response to deal with it. He indicated that it carried a risk score of 15. He explained the role of the Emergency Planning Officer and detailed the various plans in place to deal with emergency situations which could arise within Walsall.

Resolved

That the presentation be noted.

554/08

Risk Management Report

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Corporate Risk and Project Manager enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Committee.

Resolved

That the Committee:-

- (1) Notes the contents of the attached report from Bannisdale Consulting attached as Appendix 1 to the report now submitted;
- (2) Notes the revised Audit Committee risk register (Appendix 2 refers);
- (3) Agrees to the setting up of a Task Group consisting of Councillors Turner, Chambers, Martin and Kate McLeod (Independent Member) to develop the risk management action plans and review the risk register for completeness;
- (4) Agrees to review the risk register at each Audit Committee meeting to ensure that it accurately reflects issues of concern and/or to formally review the risk register on a quarterly basis.

555/08

Submission of Internal Audit Reports for Scrutiny

The report of the Assistant Director of Finance was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Head of Audit enlarged upon the report and stated that 30 actions had been agreed in respect of Allens Centre Learning Disabilities Team. One remained to be completed by the end of December. In respect of the Broadway North Disabilities Team, 28 actions had been agreed and two remained to be completed by the end of December.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

556/08

Annual Governance - Six Month Update on Effectiveness

The report of the Chief Finance Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Head of Audit explained the report in more detail for the benefit of the Committee.

Kate McLeod (Independent Member) referred to the fact that she was also a Member of the Standards Committee and asked if there was any conflict in her roles. Councillor Turner stated that Audit Committee carried out an overview whilst Standards Committee dealt with the matter in greater detail.

The Head of Audit confirmed that there was no conflict between the two roles.

Resolved

That the Committee notes the progress in implementing findings from the annual governance effectiveness review 2007/08 and notes the work to date to assess the effectiveness of the current (2008/09) effectiveness of the framework.

557/08

Corporate Financial Performance 2008/9

The report of the Chief Finance Officer was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Head of Audit spoke to the report and drew attention to the current year end forecast for 2008/09 of a revenue overspend of £2 million and unspent resources of £4.3 million on the capital programme. He added that the Council would have to manage these matters.

Resolved

That the Committee notes the currently predicted year end forecasts and the actions being taken to address them.

558/08

Private Session

Exclusion of Public

Resolved

That, during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, the Committee considers that the items for consideration are 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 those items in private session.

559/08

Risk Management Update 2008/09

The report of the Assistant Director of Finance was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Corporate Risk and Project Manager enlarged upon the report and stated that one risk had increased, three had decreased and the remainder had stayed the same. She requested the Committee to select two risks for review at a future meeting.

Resolved

That the Committee:-

- (1) Notes the current corporate risk register and selects Risks 31 and 32 for review at a future meeting;
- (2) Notes the action taken in progressing the corporate risk management action plan;
- (3) Notes the feedback required from the meeting held on 1st September, 2008 for risks 2 and 5;

- (4) Notes the work undertaken on partnership governance, opportunity management and the work of the core risk champions group (CRCG).

(Exempt information under Paragraphs 1 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

560/08

Internal Audit Proposed Workplan 2009/10

The report of the Assistant Director - Finance was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the Committee:-

- (1) Notes the proposed internal audit workplan coverage for 2009/10;
- (2) Notes 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) Notes that the final workplan will be presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and this 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)

561/08

Internal Audit Benchmarking

The report of the Assistant Director - Finance was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Resolved

That the report be noted.

(Exempt information under Paragraph 3 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 8.20 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: