



Walsall Council

SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 23 JULY, 2012 AT 5.30 P.M.

In a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillor Hughes (Chairman)
Councillor Illmann-Walker (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Chambers
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick
Councillor Flower
Councillor Murray
Councillor D. Shires
Mr. A. Green (Independent Member)

Quorum:

Three Members

Democratic Services, The Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW
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www.walsall.gov.uk

**If you are disabled and require help to and from the meeting room,
please contact the person above**

Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)

Access to information: Exempt information

Part 1

Descriptions of exempt information: England

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
 - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
 - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
 - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
 - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

1. THE REMIT OF THE COMMITTEE

- 1.1 To act as the council's Audit Committee, the purpose of which is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment, independent scrutiny of the authority's financial and non financial performance to the extent that it affects the authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment and to oversee the financial reporting.
- 1.2 To exercise the following powers and functions of the Council: -
 1. Consider the effectiveness of the council's control environment and associated anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.
 2. Consider the effectiveness of the council's risk management arrangements.
 3. Seek assurances that action is being taken on risk related issues identified by auditors and inspectors.
 4. Be satisfied that the council's assurance statements, including the Annual Governance Statement properly reflect the risk environment and any actions to improve it.
 5. Approve (but not direct) internal audit's strategy, plan and monitor performance.
 6. Review summary internal audit reports and main issues arising and seek assurance that action has been taken where necessary.
 7. Receive the annual report of the Head of Internal Audit.
 8. Review the effectiveness of key control strategies including; risk management, the local code of governance, arrangements for delivering value for money, anti-fraud arrangements and anti-corruption.
 9. Consider the reports of external audit and inspection agencies.
 10. Ensure that there are effective relationships between external and internal audit, inspection agencies and other relevant bodies and that the value of the audit process is actively promoted.
 11. Review the financial statements, external auditor's opinion and reports to members and monitor management action in response to the issues raised by external audit.
 12. Calling officers and/or Chairs of Committees to assist the Committee in its work.
 13. Considering the exercise of officers' statutory responsibilities and of functions delegated to officers.
 14. To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Executive or any Director or any Council bodies.
 15. To maintain an overview of the council's constitution in respect of contract procedure rules and financial regulations.

AGENDA

PART I - PUBLIC SESSION

1. Apologies.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. Deputations and Petitions.
4. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
5. Notification of any issues of importance for consideration at a future meeting.
6. Interim Audit report – report **enclosed** **5.30 pm**

PART II - PRIVATE SESSION

7. Charging policies and application (Fairer charging and extra care) – report **enclosed** **5.50pm**
[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]
8. Commissioning – report **enclosed** **6.15pm**
[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]
9. Partnership Framework – report **enclosed** **6.40pm**
[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]
10. Coroner – report **enclosed** **7.05pm**
[Exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]
11. H.R. report – report **enclosed** **7.30pm**
[Exempt information under paragraphs 1, 2, 3 4 and 5 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)]