

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 15th January, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Turner (Chairman)
Councillor Martin (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Bott
Councillor Robertson

459/08 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Clarke and Councillor Cook.

460/08 Councillor Cook

Councillor Turner referred to Councillor Cook's recent fall when he had suffered a broken hip. The Committee asked that Councillor Cook be written to wishing him a speedy recovery.

Resolved

That a letter be forwarded to Councillor Cook conveying the Committee's best wishes for a speedy recovery from his broken hip.

461/08 Minutes

Councillor Turner referred to minute number 452/07 regarding the Final Accounts Audit. With reference to missing deeds for Council owned properties, he announced that the final missing deed had now been found.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December, 2007, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

462/08 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

463/08 **Deputations and Petitions**

No deputations were received or petitions submitted.

464/08 **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.

465/08 **Final Accounts Training**

Dan Mortiboys made a PowerPoint presentation regarding Final Accounts Training. A copy of the slides used was circulated to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Following questions from Members, it was:-

Resolved

That the presentation be noted.

466/08 **Updated Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS)**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

David Blacker enlarged upon the report and indicated that Risk Management had retained level 4 in the recent CPA assessment.

Following discussion, it was:-

Resolved

That the Audit Committee:-

- (1) Notes the contents of the report;
- (2) Endorses the revised draft Corporate Risk Management Strategy;
- (3) Refers the Strategy to Cabinet for consideration and endorsement.

467/08 Use of Resources (UOR) – Auditor Judgements

A report of the Audit Commission was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Gill Edwards enlarged upon the report and indicated that it showed how well Walsall had used its resources in 2006/07. She referred to page 6 of the report which showed the scores for 2006 and 2007 and stated that although the scores were the same Walsall had continued to improve because the test had become harder.

Following questions and comments from Members, it was:-

Resolved

That the report be noted.

468/08 Private Session Exclusion of Public

Resolved

That, during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda, the Committee considered 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.

469/08 Submission of Corporate Risks for Scrutiny

A report of the Executive Director was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Paul Smith enlarged upon the report and made a PowerPoint presentation, with the help of Rob Pinkham, Project Manager. A copy of the slides used were circulated to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Robertson asked whether agency staff would be included in the evaluation. Paul Smith replied that currently agency staff were not the Council's responsibility but this might alter with future legislative changes.

Following further questions and answers, it was:-

Resolved

That the presentation and report be noted.

(Exempt information under Paragraphs 1 and 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.25 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: