

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Monday, 14th January, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Present

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)

In attendance

James Walsh, Chief Finance Officer
Rebecca Neill, Head of Internal Audit
Michael Tomlinson, Treasury, Financial Administration and Systems
Manager
Charles Barber, Internal Audit
Jamie Morris, Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services
Sue Grainger, Libraries and Heritage
Stephen Snoddy, Art Gallery Manager
Mary Costello, Internal Audit

1023/13

Apologies

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

1024/13

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November, 2012 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

Councillor Illmann-Walker referred to the Remuneration for Independent Members (page 2 of the minutes refers) and to the decision made by Council on 7th January, 2013. He asked if this meant that Independent Members would not be paid an allowance. The Head of Internal Audit (Rebecca Neill) confirmed that as a result of the Council's decision, Independent Members would only be paid expenses for attending meetings.

Councillor Chambers referred to the final paragraph of page 5 (Minute No. 1017/12 refers) and stated that “Council payable audit” should read “accounts payable audit”.

Councillor Hughes referred to page 7 (Minute No. 1018/12 refers) and to paragraph 4 of the resolution. He asked if Mr. Spencer had been invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee. Rebecca Neill replied that he would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Illmann-Walker asked if a Department was audited by an outside body, would the result of that audit be reported to this Committee. Rebecca Neill agreed that external audits should be reported to this Committee. The Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services (Jamie Morris) reported that Walsall College had recently been inspected by Ofsted and had received an “outstanding” result. He felt that this should be reported to Audit Committee.

Councillor Illmann-Walker reported that the findings of the Cordis Bright report ought to be reported to Committee.

Councillor Murray concurred with Councillor Illmann-Walker’s remarks that all external audits should be reported to Committee.

Rebecca Neill agreed to contact all Executive Directors and get them to report the result of all audits to the Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November, 2012, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the words “Council payable audit” being replaced by the words “accounts payable audit” in the final paragraph on page 5;
- (2) That Rebecca Neill contact all Executive Directors to request them to report the results of all audits to this Committee.

1025/13 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

1026/13 **Deputations and Petitions**

There were no deputations submitted or petitions received.

1027/13 **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.

1028/13 **Notification of any issues of importance for consideration at a future meeting**

No items were put forward for consideration at a future meeting.

1029/13 **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000**

The report of the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Jamie Morris presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Members asked a number of questions which Jamie Morris responded to. Councillor Chambers suggested that the words “and in full compliance with the law” should be added to the recommendation and it was,

Resolved

That the Committee:-

notes the Council’s use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 and received assurance from the Senior Responsible Officer that it is being used consistently with the Council’s policy and procedures and in full compliance with the law.

1030/13 **Annual Review of Treasury Management Policies**

The report of the Head of Finance and Treasury Financial Administration and Systems Manager was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Treasury Financial Administration and Systems Manager (Michael Tomlinson) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Committee and drew attention to the salient points contained therein.

Members asked a number of questions which James Walsh and Michael Tomlinson replied to.

Resolved

That the Committee:-

- (1) approves and recommends the Treasury Management Policies to Council (Appendix A refers);
- (2) notes and endorses the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2013/14 onwards to Council (Appendix B refers).

1031/13 **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.

Summary of items considered in private session

1032/13 **No or Limited Assurance Internal Audit Reports**

The Committee noted the contents of the report and accepted assurances that weaknesses detailed within the audit reports have been or are being addressed.

1033/13 **Internal Audit Plan 2012/13**

The Committee noted and endorsed the contents of the report.

1034/13 **Internal Audit Proposed Work Plan 2013/14**

The Committee received the proposed internal audit work plan coverage for 2013/14.

Termination of meeting

The meeting terminated at 8.40 p.m.