

## **SPECIAL AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Conference Room, Council House, Walsall**

### **Present**

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

### **In Attendance**

Councillor Bird (Leader)  
Councillor Towe (Cabinet Member - Finance and Personnel)  
Paul Sheehan (Chief Executive)  
Rory Borealis (Executive Director - Resources)  
Paul Davies (Executive Director - Social Care and Inclusion)  
Jamie Morris (Executive Director - Neighbourhoods)  
Pauline Pilkington (Executive Director - Children's Services)  
Wayne Sheargold (Contracts Officer - Children's Services)  
Perminder Sethi (Grant Thornton)

966/12

### **Introductions**

Councillor Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that in view of the nature of business to be transacted at the meeting, more flexibility should have been afforded to ensure that all Members of the Committee could attend.

967/12

### **Apologies**

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Fitzpatrick, Flower and Murray.

968/12

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

969/12

**Deputations and Petitions**

There were no deputations submitted or petitions received.

970/12

**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.

971/12

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

No issues of importance for consideration at a future meeting were reported.

972/12

**Change in the order of business**

Pursuant to a request received from Rory Borealis and Councillor Towe, the Committee agreed to change the order of business, as now set out below, in line with Council Standing Order No. 14(c):-

- H.R. report;
- Commissioning;
- Charging policies and application (Fairer charging and extra care);
- Partnerships framework;
- Coroner;
- Interim Audit report.

973/12

**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**

974/12

### **H.R. report**

The contents of the report were noted and the Committee felt that sufficient assurance had been given in detailing what action has been/is being taken to address the concerns identified within the report;

975/12

### **Commissioning**

The contents of the report were noted and the Committee felt that sufficient assurance had been given in detailing what action has been/is being taken to address the concerns identified within the report;

976/12

### **Charging policies and application (Fairer charging and extra care)**

The contents of the report were noted and the Committee felt that sufficient assurance had been given in detailing what action has been/is being taken to address the concerns identified within the report;

977/12

### **Partnership Framework**

The contents of the report were noted and the Committee felt that sufficient assurance had been given in detailing what action has been/is being taken to address the concerns identified within the report;

978/12

### **Coroner**

The contents of the report were noted and the Committee felt that sufficient assurance had been given in detailing what action has been/is being taken to address the concerns identified within the report;

## **RETURNED TO PUBLIC SESSION**

979/12

### **Interim Audit report**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Perminder Sethi guided Members through the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

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

- Accounting for schools;
- Walk through testing;
- Review of information technology controls;
- Journal entry controls (for which the Committee were content with management's response and explanation was given by James Walsh on this matter. In addition, Mr. Green received assurance that the system to monitor this control would be audited by Internal Audit);
- Strategic financial planning;
- Improving efficiency and productivity.

### **Resolved**

That the report and measures being taken to ensure the Council meets its obligations be noted.

### **Termination of meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 8.18 p.m.