

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Monday, 14th November, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

Conference Room, Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Chambers (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Flower
Councillor Murray
Councillor Robertson
Councillor D. Shires (substitute for Councillor Barker)
Mr. A. Green (Independent Member)

Councillor Chambers (Vice-Chairman) in the Chair

887/11 Best wishes to Councillor Turner

The Committee stated that they would like their best wishes for a speedy return to good health for Councillor Turner recorded in the minutes and also that a letter be sent to him conveying this message from the Committee.

Resolved

That a letter be sent to Councillor Turner from the Committee wishing him a speedy return to good health.

888/11 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Turner, Barker and Hussain.

889/11 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th September, 2011 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

In relation to Minute No. 886/11 (Risk Management Update 2010/11), Councillor Chambers reported that risk items 4, 10 and 42 had been amalgamated into other risk areas and, as a result of this, would come back to a future meeting.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September, 2011, a copy having previously been circulated to each Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

890/11 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

891/11 **Deputations and Petitions**

There were no deputations submitted or petitions received.

892/11 **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.

893/11 **Change in order of business**

Pursuant to Council Standing Order No. 14(c), Councillor Chambers **moved:-**

That the order of business be changed to accommodate officer's commitments.

Resolved

That the order of business be changed pursuant to Council Standing Order No. 14(c) and that the agenda items be considered in the following order:-

No. 6, 12, 13, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

894/11 **Notification of any issues of importance for consideration at a future meeting**

Councillor Robertson requested that an item be placed on the agenda for a future meeting in relation to 'Other Audit Committee Models'.

Resolved

That an item be placed on the agenda for a future meeting in relation to 'Other Audit Committee Models'.

895/11

Private Session

Exclusion of Public

Resolved

That, during consideration of items 12 and 13 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.

896/11

Submission of corporate risks for scrutiny (Risks 23 and 41)

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Kevin Kendall (Head of Property Services) was in attendance to discuss corporate risk 23 and Rory Borealis (Executive Director - Resources), Paul Gordon (Head of Business Change) and Richard Battams (Programme Manager) were in attendance to discuss corporate risk 41.

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) With regard to risk 23, that a briefing note be sent out to Members on the matter and a full report be brought back to the next Committee detailing indicators and evidence, giving assurances that the risk is being mitigated and managed effectively;
- (3) In relation to risk 41 that a full report giving sufficient measures through which the council is able to assess progress with regard to Risk 41 be on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

897/11

Business Continuity Arrangements in the event of Industrial Action

Bethany Evans (Head of People Services) and Alan Boyd (Resilience Manager) were in attendance and gave a brief overview into Walsall's business continuity arrangements in the event of industrial action.

Resolved

That the presentation be noted and that a detailed briefing note concerning the plans for dealing with business continuity arrangements in the event of industrial action be sent out to all Members of the Council to include details of any agreed exemptions prior to 30th November, 2011.

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

RETURNED TO PUBLIC SESSION

898/11

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Jamie Morris (Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services) presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein. In particular, Mr. Morris reported that the present RIPA procedures were in the process of being updated and that the revised procedures would be brought back to a future meeting of the Audit Committee for it to recommend to Council that they be approved.

There then followed a period of questioning by Members in relation to what the reasons were for the reduction in trend and whether future reports could include statistics to show where possible, the outcomes of the listed RIPA activity.

Resolved

That:-

- (1) The surveillance activities undertaken by the Council under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 for the six month period ending 30th September, 2011 be noted;
- (2) It be noted that revised RIPA procedures will be brought back to a future meeting of the Audit Committee for it to recommend that they be approved by Council;

- (3) Additional information be included on all future RIPA reports to show where possible, the outcomes of the listed RIPA activity.

899/11

Financial health indicators 2011/12

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Vicky Buckley (Head of Corporate Finance) presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

There then followed a period of questioning by Members, including a discussion on what constitutes 'sundry debtors' of the Authority. In addition, Mr. Green highlighted where he believed there were some discrepancies contained within the report in relation to the capital expenditures 2011/12 post audit figure and the capital financing requirement figure.

Resolved

That:-

- (1) The financial health indicators be noted;
- (2) That a briefing note be sent out to all Members of the Committee clarifying the points highlighted in the report by Mr. Green;
- (3) A list of what constitutes 'sundry debtors' be sent to all Members of the Committee.

900/11

No or limited assurance audit reports for scrutiny

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Rebecca Neill (Head of Internal Audit) presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Resolved

That:-

- (1) The contents of the report be noted;

(2) That the following reports be selected for consideration at a special meeting of the Audit Committee to be arranged in the near future commencing at 5.30 p.m.

- Grants;
- Walsall Adult and Community College;
- Integrated Young Persons Support Service;
- Community Mental Health Integrated Team;
- Learning disabilities - Satellite Offices; and
- Pinfold Day Centre.

(3) Future no or limited assurance reports detail how many reports have come out of a no or limited assurance for each period.

901/11 **Internal Audit progress report as at 30th September, 2011**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Rebecca Neill (Head of Internal Audit) presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Following a period of questioning it was,

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted and endorsed.

902/11 **Private Session**

Exclusion of Public

Resolved

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

903/11 **Internal Audit unplanned summary report for the six months ending 30th September, 2011**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Rebecca Neill (Head of Internal Audit) presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein.

Following a period of questioning it was,

Resolved

That:-

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) that future reports highlight the clear distinction between what constitutes advice and fraud.

(Exempt information under Paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 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 7.36 p.m.

Chair:

Date: