

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Conference Room, Council House, Walsall**

### **Present**

Councillor Turner (Chairman)  
Councillor Chambers (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Barker  
Councillor Flower  
Councillor Murray  
Councillor Robertson  
Mr. A. Green (Independent Member)

912/12

### **Apology**

An apology for non-attendance was submitted on behalf of Councillor Hussain.

913/12

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 were submitted:-

(see annexed)

In relation to Minute No. 894/11, Councillor Robertson reported that he now wished to rescind this minute to which the Committee agreed.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2011, 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Member of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to Minute No. 894/11 being rescinded.

914/12

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

915/12      **Deputations and Petitions**

There were no deputations submitted or petitions received.

916/12      **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.

917/12      **Change in the order of business**

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

That the order of business be changed to accommodate Officers' prior 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. 10, 11, 6, 7, 8 and 9

918/12      **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.

919/12      **Submission of Corporate Risks for Scrutiny (Risk 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), Bethany Evans (Head of Human Resources) and Lisa Hemus (Senior Manager - HRD) were in attendance to discuss corporate risk 41.

A lengthy discussion took place on both items and Members sought answers to numerous questions, with a view to receiving sufficient assurances from Officers that the risks were being managed and mitigated adequately.

**Resolved**

That:-

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) with regard to risk 23, that a report on this matter be brought back to a future Committee when sufficient indicators and measurements become available to demonstrate how the risk is being managed/mitigated adequately.

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

920/12

**Internal Audit Proposed Work Programme - 2012/13**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

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

**Resolved**

- (1) That the proposed internal audit work plan coverage for 2012/13 be noted;
- (2) That it be noted that the proposed plan will be discussed with Executive Directors at their management teams prior to subsequent approval by the Council's Section 151 officer;
- (3) That it be noted that the final work plan will be presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and the Audit Committee for formal endorsement;

- (4) That the final report to the Audit Committee detail the rationale behind any changes, once approved by CMT.

(Exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

## **RETURNED TO PUBLIC SESSION**

921/12 **Notification of any issues of importance for consideration at a future meeting**

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

922/12 **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy and Procedures 2012**

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 an Inspection by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner was likely to occur at some point during the present year and stated that he would feedback to the Committee once the Inspection had taken place.

John Beavon (Interim Regulatory Manager) was also in attendance for this matter and answered questions relevant to his area.

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

- How test purchases involving minors and the recording of noisy neighbours worked from a practical and legal point of view;
- If the Committee could be assured that the forms contained within the new policy would be audited within the process and what check would be in place to ensure that the forms are accurately completed in the first place;
- Who would audit any work undertaken by the audit team under this procedure;
- What would constitute a 'minor amendment' and if legal advice would be sought before any changes were made to the Policy and Procedures.

## **Resolved**

That:-

- (1) the new corporate policy and procedures on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000 attached as Appendix 1 be endorsed as fit for purpose;
- (2) Council be recommended to approve the corporate policy and procedures on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 attached as Appendix 1;
- (3) Council be recommended to approve that the Executive Director - Neighbourhood Services, be granted delegated authority to make 'minor amendments' to the RIPA policy and procedures, as required, in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services;
- (4) that a glossary of terms be included at the rear of the report and that Jamie Morris feedback to a future Committee once the Surveillance Commissioner's Inspection has taken place.

923/12

### **Annual Audit Letter 2010/11**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Vicky Buckley (Head of Corporate Finance) was in attendance and Mr. Ian Barber, from Grant Thornton, presented the report and highlighted various salient areas contained therein.

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

- What the likely affect would be on school balances as a result of schools changing to Academies;
- What the figure was in relation to the audit fees on the 'certification of grant claims and returns' audit area.

## **Resolved**

That the annual audit letter 2010/11 be noted.

924/12

### **Protecting the Public Purse - Fraud Update**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Rebecca Neill (Head of Internal Audit) presented the report and highlighted the salient points contained therein. Craig George (Benefits Investigation Manager) was also in attendance and answered questions relevant to his area.

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

- How Walsall performed in comparison to other Local Authorities;
- The Council's response to item 24 of the checklist.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

**Termination of meeting**

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.20 p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....