

AUDIT COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 22 APRIL 2008

PRESENT:- Councillors Raymond Fisher (Chair), Mark Edwards (Vice-Chair), Steve Allsopp, Des Moffatt and David Sammels

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mary Martin.

55. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

56. Public Question Time

No questions were asked under Standing Order 18.

57. Minutes

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2008 be confirmed and signed.

58. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respective paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraph No.</u>	<u>Minute No.</u>
9, 10 and 11	7	62 - 64

59. Update on Accounts Changes for 200708

The Committee received a report on updates to the Statement of Recommended Practice in advance of its consideration of the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts at its June meeting. The Director of Finance introduced the report, advising members of the context in which the Statement of Accounts must be produced, its overarching objectives and the required contents. He explained that it was the intention of the report to prepare the Committee to scrutinise the accounts at the June meeting with the knowledge of how financial reporting requirements have changed since the 2006/07 accounts.

Resolved – That the report, and the updated requirements to the Annual Statement of Accounts to be presented to the June meeting of the Committee, be noted.

60. DRAFT Internal Audit Annual Plan 2008/09

The Committee received a report presenting the detail of the Council's draft Internal Audit Plan for 2008/9.

Resolved – That the draft Internal Audit Plan for 2008/9 be approved.

61. Audit Committee: Self-Assessment checklist

Further to Minute 51, the Head of Internal Audit presented the completed CIPFA Better Government Forum's checklist, revised in accordance with members' comments during the Committee's initial performance review.

Resolved – That the revised self-assessment checklist be accepted and that actions identified by the review, to improve the performance and effectiveness of the Committee, be agreed.

62. Planning Enforcement: Update on the implementation of Internal Audit recommendations

Further to Minute 34, the Committee received a report on progress in implementing recommendations arising from the internal audit review of planning enforcement. The Director of Planning attended the meeting to present the report and respond to members' questions regarding progress in delivering against the agreed key objectives set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Resolved – That the report, and the progress made in responding to the recommendations of the Internal Audit Review of Planning Enforcement, be noted.

63. Internal Audit reports identifying significant risk or 'of concern'

The Head of Internal Audit submitted a report introducing the Internal Audit report on Contracting of Works, which had been classified as being of "significant risk". The Group Director Business Transformation introduced the Audit Report, summarising the issues identified within the report as presenting "significant risk" and advising the Committee of immediate action that had been taken in response to the key findings of the audit review and the medium and long-term management response to the internal audit recommendations.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That an interim report on progress in implementing the action plan produced in response to the findings of the Internal Audit review of contracting of works be made to the June meeting of this Committee and that, in order to assist the Committee in its consideration of the matter, the Chief Executive and other appropriate responsible officers be invited to attend the meeting to report on measures introduced to address key risks and provide an assurance to the Committee that the significant risks identified by the audit review are not evident in other parts of the organisation's operation.

64. Head of Internal Audit Update

The Committee received a report summarising the main issues arising from Internal Audit reports finalised in March and April 2008 advising on progress against the Internal Audit Plan. The report also provided the Committee with information in respect of the staffing situation within internal audit, completion of the Internal Audit

Plan 2007/8 and external audit work undertaken by the section.

Resolved – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That this Committee commends the significant work undertaken by Internal Audit on behalf of the Council and again registers its concern that the section remains understaffed and that the Council seems unable to attract experienced officers to fill existing vacancies.