



# Audit & Governance

## Committee

29th September 2009

### MINUTES

**Present:**

Councillor Robin King (Chair), Councillor Greg Chance (Vice-Chair) and Councillors M Braley, G Hopkins and W Norton

**Also Present:**

B Warwick (Standards Committee),  
E Cave and D Evans (Audit Commission)

**Officers:**

S Hanley, T Kristunas and S Mullins

**Committee Officer:**

D Sunman

**31. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

**32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**33. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that**

**the minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**34. AUDIT COMMISSION - ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT**

Members considered two reports.

**1) Annual Governance Statement – Statement of Accounts 2008/09.**

Members received a report from the Head of Financial, Revenues and Benefits Service.

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Chair

She reported that a number of issues had been identified by the Audit Commission during the course of their audit, which had taken place during August and September. Members were informed that some of the issues required amendments to be made to the Statement of Accounts, which had been previously approved by the Audit and Governance Committee on 30 June 2009.

Officers from the Audit Commission suggested that Members consider their Annual Governance Report at this stage in the meeting as it would help clarify a number of issues.

## 2) **Annual Governance Report**

Officers from the Audit Commission presented their Annual Governance Report 2008/09 for Redditch Borough Council.

Members were informed that the report summarised the findings from the 2008/09 audit. It included messages that arose from the audit of the Council's financial statements together with the results of work which had been undertaken to assess how well resources had been used and managed to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people.

The key messages from the Auditors were:

### 1) Audit Opinion

The Auditors confirmed that they would be able to issue an unqualified opinion as there had been no outstanding matters that needed to be cleared.

### 2) Financial statements

The financial statements that had been submitted were free from material errors, substantially complete and had been produced by the agreed target date.

### 3) Use of resources

The Auditors were able to conclude that the Council had arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness. They identified one exception in that the Council did not have adequate arrangements in place for planning, organising and developing its workforce effectively in order to support

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the achievement of its strategic priorities.

Members were asked to:

- i) consider the matters raised in the report before approving the financial statements;
- ii) note the adjustments to the financial statements;
- iii) note the Value For Money (VFM) conclusion; and
- iv) approve the letter of representation on behalf of the Council.

## **RESOLVED that**

- 1) the amendments to the Statement of Accounts, be noted, as appended to these minutes at Appendix 1;**
- 2) the revised Statement of Accounts 2008/09 be approved, as appended to these minutes at Appendix 2; and**
- 3) a copy of the Statement be signed at the meeting by the Chair.**

(The vote having been taken on the above Resolutions, the Chair signed the letter of Representation, with the agreed amendments, on behalf of the Council.)

(The meeting adjourned at 7.30pm to allow Officers from the Audit Commission and the Council to discuss suggested amendments to the letter of representation. The meeting reconvened at 7.40pm)

The Meeting commenced at 7.04 pm  
and closed at 7.50 pm