



Audit & Governance

Committee

15th June 2010

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Bill Hartnett (Chair), Councillor Robin King (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Michael Braley, Malcolm Hall, Gay Hopkins and William Norton

Also Present:

Brian Warwick – Standard Committee
David Evans - Audit Commission

Officers:

T Kristunas, J Pickering and B Haycock

Committee Services Officer:

D Sunman

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received Councillor Andrew Brazier.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20th April 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. EXTERNAL AUDIT - PROGRESS REPORT

David Evans, Audit Commission presented a Progress Report that provided information on the 2009/10 audit.

He reported that the pre-statement work on the Opinion Audit had been completed and was used to produce the Opinion Audit Plan

.....

Chair

Audit & Governance

Committee

15th June 2010

which was presented to this Committee at their last meeting in April 2010.

Members were informed that central government had recently announced the cessation of all Comprehensive Area Assessment and Use of Resources work effective immediately. This meant that, although the fieldwork was almost complete, no further work could be carried out including scoring of the Use of Resources for 2009/10.

A review of the approach is being carried out for the value for money conclusion form 2010/11.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

5. EXTERNAL AUDIT - CERTIFICATION OF GRANTS

David Evans, Audit Commission presented a report on the Certification of Claims and Returns for grants received from central government during 2008/09, which had amounted to more than £25 million. He explained that the role of the auditors was to ensure that the Council could demonstrate that all conditions attached to various grants had been met otherwise the funding could be put at risk.

In 2008/09 the Commission's audit team had certified six claims as follows:

Claims and returns above £500,000

Claim	Value £	Adequate control environment	Amended	Qualification letter issued
Housing and council tax benefit	23,257,619	Yes	No	Yes
Pooling of housing receipts	511,748	Yes	No	No

Audit & Governance

Committee

15th June 2010

Claim	Value £	Adequate control environment	Amended	Qualification letter issued
HRA subsidy	5,834,619	Yes	No	No
HRA base data return	-	Yes	No	Yes
NNDR return	33,298,937	Yes	No	No

Claims between £100,000 and £500,000

Claim	Value £	Amended
Disabled facilities	240,000	No

Members were informed that the fees charged for grant certification work in 2008/09 amounted to £61,046.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

6. INTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

The Committee considered the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2009/10, which presented Members with the Internal Audit Manager's opinion on the overall adequacy of the Council's internal control environment.

RESOLVED that

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **Members support the bid for additional temporary audit staff.**

Audit & Governance

Committee

15th June 2010

7. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2009/10

The Committee's approval was sought for the Annual Governance Statement 2009/10 (AGS) for inclusion in the Council's Statement of Accounts 2009/10.

Members were informed that the purpose of the Annual Governance Statement was not only to show 'compliance' but also to provide an accurate representation of the arrangements in place during the year and to highlight areas where improvement would be required.

RESOLVED that

the Annual Governance Statement 2009/10 be recommended for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT GROUP - ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a report on the work of the Risk Management Monitoring Group during 2009/10.

The Head of Finance and Resources reported that the first role of the group had been to agree Terms of Reference, which were subsequently approved by the Corporate Management Team (CMT).

Members were informed that it would be necessary to invite new Officers to attend in 2010/11 to reflect the new roles in the Shared Management Team.

RESOLVED that

the report be noted.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT - MEMBER SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AUDIT ACTIVITY

Members were asked to consider whether there were any suggestions that Internal Audit might consider for inclusion in the next Audit Work Programme.

Members suggested the following areas for inclusion in the Programme:

- 1) Town Hall Radio Studio – use and rental; and
- 2) Grant Funding – how it is spent.

Audit & Governance

Committee

15th June 2010

10. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009 - 2011

Members received a verbal report on the Committee Work Programme 2009/11.

RESOLVED that

The Head of Finance and Resources review the dates of meetings for 2010/11 to fit with reporting requirements.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 8.25 pm