

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

HELD: 4 APRIL 2012
Start: 7.00pm
Finish: 7.45pm

PRESENT:

Councillor E Pope (Chairman)

Councillors	R Baybutt	G R Jones
	A Cheetham	C Mawdsley
	M Forshaw	N Pryce-Roberts
	I Grant	

Officers: Borough Treasurer (Mr M Taylor)
Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)
Transformation Manager (Mr S Walsh)
Audit Manager (Mr M Coysh)
Assistant Member Services Manager (Mrs J Denning)

In attendance: P Thompson – Audit Team Leader (Audit Commission)

34. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Hennessy.

35. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no changes.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

37. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 February 2012 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38. AUDIT COMMISSION GRANT CLAIMS AND RETURNS

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on Pages 227 to 240 of the Book of Reports, which provided details of the Audit Commission's findings from their certification of 2010/11 claims and returns.

Mr Thompson introduced the Audit Commission's report attached as an Appendix.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the three claims detailed in the report in particular the number of issues compared to other authorities and their impact on benefit recipients.

RESOLVED: That the Audit Commission's findings be noted.

39. AUDIT COMMISSION UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on Pages 241 to 252 of the Book of Reports, which provided details of the Audit Commission's progress in delivering their responsibilities as external auditors as well as an update on emerging national issues.

Mr Thompson from the Audit Commission introduced his report attached as an Appendix.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- The transfer arrangements for external audit from the Audit Commission to Grant Thornton (UK) LLP.
- Future external audit fees

RESOLVED: That the update report be noted.

40. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2012/12

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on Pages 253 to 260 of the Book of Reports, which summarised the background to the preparation of the 2012/13 Internal Audit Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit Plan 2012/13, attached as an Appendix to the report, be approved.

41. LOCAL CODE OF GOVERNANCE

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on Pages 261 to 274 of the Book of Reports, which set out the results of the annual review of the Council's Local Code of Governance.

RESOLVED: That the Local Code of Governance for 2012/13, attached as at Appendix 1 to the this report, be approved and adopted.

42. TREASURY MANAGEMENT

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on Pages 275 to 278 of the Book of Reports, which set out details of the operation of the Treasury management function over the last year.

RESOLVED: That the continuing effective operation of the Treasury Management function be noted.

43. INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITIES - QUARTERLY UPDATE

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Treasurer, as contained on Pages 279 to 282 of the Book of Reports, which summarised progress against work included in the 2011/12 Internal Audit Plan as at 31 March 2012.

- RESOLVED: A. That the positive position regarding delivery of the audit plan be noted.
- B. That quarterly update reports continue to be submitted to this Committee.

44. REGULATORY OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT - QUARTERLY MONITORING OF USE OF POWERS

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor, as contained on Pages 283 to 286 of the Book of Reports, which reminded Members of the requirement to report to this Committee, on a quarterly basis, in relation to the use made by the Council of its powers under the Act. The Borough Solicitor advised that this provision had not been used in the last quarter.

RESOLVED: That the position on the use of covert surveillance in the last quarter be noted.

45. AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to the Committee's programme of work, as contained on Page 287 of the Book of Reports.

- RESOLVED: A. That the work programme be noted.
- B. That training sessions held prior to future Committee meetings to include:
- (i) Financial Regulation and Procedures
 - (ii) Contract Procedure Rules
 - (iii) An overview on the Role of the Committee
- C. That the Borough Solicitor be requested to ask all Members if they have any requirements for training in relation to Audit and Governance.

THE CHAIRMAN