

AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 26th April 2012 at Worksop Town Hall

Present: Councillor R B Carrington-Wilde (Chair)
Councillors H Burton, D Challinor, P Douglas, G Freeman, M Gray, C Palmer,
J B Rickells, A Simpson and Mrs C Troop

Officers: C Crossland, P Clark, M Hill and N Taylor

Also in attendance: A Ali, D Phillips and C Williams - Audit (RSM Tenon)

Standards Committee Members: B Letherland

(The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and read out the Fire Alarm/Evacuation Procedure.)

64. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs V A Bowles, I J Campbell, A A D Tromans and Mrs V Wanless.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

(b) Officers

There were no declarations of interest by officers.

66. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY 2012

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2012 be approved.

67. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action be received.

68. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

69. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

(a) Internal Audit Progress Report 2011/12

A Ali presented information to Members regarding internal audits: Taxation; Procurement – Contract Management; Inventory Management; Debtors and Debt Recovery; Risk Management Follow Up; Community and Anti-Social Behaviour; Review of Leisure Management Contract; and Follow Up 4.

Out of the eight internal audits there were 31 recommendations, of which two have been classified high risk, 9 medium risk and 20 low risk. At the request of management an advisory review of the Leisure Management Agreement for Barnsley Premier Leisure was undertaken in addition to the approved internal audit plan and this has resulted in thirteen suggestions made.

The Chairman informed the Committee that it was A Ali's last meeting as he is changing jobs; he thanked him on behalf of the Committee for his work over the last seven years.

Elected Members raised issues/asked questions on the Leisure Management Agreement advisory note and G4S.

An Elected Member pointed out that the report was difficult to read due to colour being used on the original report and then photocopied in black and white. Officers informed Members that they would try to rectify this problem in the future.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Internal Audit Progress Report 2011/12 be received and actions taken or to be taken be noted.
2. A copy of the Leisure Management Agreement advisory notes be circulated to Members of the Committee.

(b) Internal Audit Strategy and Plan 2012/13

C Williams presented Members with the proposed Internal Audit Strategy for work to be undertaken during the period 2012/13 to 2014/15 and the Internal Audit Plan for work to be undertaken during the financial year 2012/13. The Strategy for Internal Audit for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15 was appended to the report.

Elected Members raised issues/asked questions on: fines and enforcement; contingency days; the localism act and staff awareness.

RESOLVED that the Strategy for Internal Audit for the period 2012/13 to 2014/15 and the detailed Internal Audit Plan for 2012/13 be approved.

(c) Internal Audit Annual Report

C Williams presented Members with a formal report on the activities of Internal Audit during the financial year 2011/12 that included amongst other matters, an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment.

Elected Members raised issues/asked questions on the bribery act, anti-fraud policy and code of conduct.

In response to questions raised the Head of Property and Finance commented that recommendations regarding the bribery act were reported to the Committee in February but could be re-circulated.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Internal Audit Annual Report 2011/12 be received.
2. The report containing recommendations regarding the bribery act be circuited to Members.

(d) Audit Commission Audit Plan 2011/12

D Phillips presented Members with the Audit Commission's Audit Plan 2011/12 for Bassetlaw's audit of Accounting Statements and Whole Government Accounts, and the value for money conclusion for 2011/12 which were appended to the report.

Elected Members raised issues/asked questions on the HRA reform, General Fund Reserves and Icelandic Bank Investments.

RESOLVED that the Audit Commission's Audit Plan 2011/12 for Bassetlaw's audit of Accounting Statements and Whole Government Accounts, and the value for money conclusion for 2011/12 be received and accepted, and recommended to full Council on 28th June 2011.

(e) External Audit Arrangements and Annual Audit Fee 2012/13

Members were presented with an update on the external audit arrangements for 2012/13 and provided with the Audit Commissions work programme and scale of audit fees for 2012/13.

For Bassetlaw and the East Midlands region, the successful bidder was KPMG, and they will now undertake the external audit for a minimum of five years with effect from 1st September 2012. This contract will contribute to a 40% reduction in audit fees.

Elected Members commented that it is with regret that the report is recommended to full Council, Bassetlaw District Council have worked with the Audit Commission for many years and it has been a success. Members added that they hope that the private sector will recognise value for money and not profit and have knowledge of public sector risks and issues.

The Chairman thanked D Phillips and the Audit Team for attending on behalf of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the new external audit arrangements and the associated Annual Audit Fee for 2012/13 be noted and recommended to full Council on 28th June 2012.

(f) Corporate Risk Management

Members were provided with an update on the Corporate Risk Management arrangements in place for the Council and assurance that risks are being managed appropriately.

Elected Members raised issues/asked questions on Covalent and procurement.

RESOLVED that:

1. Members note the new Risk Management process and its contribution to the corporate governance arrangements of the Council.
2. Members note the progress of actions identified within the Corporate Risk Register.
3. Thanks be recorded to the Officers involved in putting together the Corporate Risk Register.

SECTION B – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

None.

Other Decisions

None.

70. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

The Chairman thanked Members for their support, questions and their diligent and hard work on the Committee over the last year.

Members expressed their thanks to the Chairman.

As there was no other urgent business to consider, the Chairman closed the meeting.