

Minutes of Accounts & Audit Committee

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 28 November 2012 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor J B Hill (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	R Newmark
R Bennett	M Thomas
S Bibby	N C Walsh
I Brown	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Head of Financial Services and Principal Auditor.

Also in attendance: Karen Murray – Grant Thornton.

491 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Hore, A Knox and G Mirfin.

492 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In relation to Minute 256 – Implementation of the Code of Conduct – Council Procedures’, the Director of Resources informed Committee that a short training session which would include the two new independent persons, would take place at 5pm before the next meeting of Committee on 27 March 2013.

493 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

494 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

495 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2011/2012

The Director of Resources submitted the Audit Commission’s Audit Letter for 2011/2012 for Committee to consider. The Audit Commission as the Council’s external auditor is required to review various aspects of the Council’s activities in line with the requirements of the Audit Commission’s Code of Practice. The Audit Commission’s Annual Governance Report had considered its findings in relation to the Council’s financial statements and value for money conclusion for 2011/2012 and the auditor had issued an unqualified opinion. Furthermore, the Audit Commission were satisfied that the Council had put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Annual Audit Letter would be published on the Council’s website.

Karen Murray added comments that it was a pleasing audit letter and that Ribble Valley had in fact been the earliest opinion issued in Lancashire.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

496 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2012/2013

Committee received the report on the internal audit work progress to date for 2012/2013; they were given details of the full internal audit plan and the progress of the audit work carried out as at the end of October 2012.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

497 GRANT THORNTON PLANNED AUDIT FEE 2012/2013

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information on the planned audit fee of Grant Thornton for this Council for 2012/2013. Grant Thornton had been appointed by the Audit Commission as auditors to the Council for the next five years. In a letter received from them, the planned audit fee was quoted at £52,700 which represents a 40% saving on that which was charged in 2011/2012.

Karen Murray informed Committee that this audit fee reflects good accounts.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

498 RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE ON RED RISKS

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information with an update on the current areas of high risk for the Council as identified on the risk register.

At the time of reporting to Committee, there was only one red risk on the Council's risk register which was the same as reported to the Committee at its meeting on 22 August and related to the delivery of the Council's paper and cardboard waste to Lancashire County Council's PFI facility. The risk status currently remained unchanged from that reported at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

499 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

500 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the next item of business being exempt information under Category 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

501

REPORT ON AUDIT INVESTIGATION

The Director of Resources gave a detailed account of the audit investigation that had taken place at Salthill Depot site and the lessons that had been learnt from this.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Jane Pearson (414430).