

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

**THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER**

12TH DECEMBER 2011 (6.00 PM)

Present:

Councillors: J Holden (Chairman), M A Salter (Vice-Chairman), P Dyke, M B Kelly, K H Prosser, C Rogers and N J Thomas.

AUD.20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G W Ballinger.

AUD.21 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor N J Thomas was appointed as a substitute for Councillor G W Ballinger.

AUD.22 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

Before the meeting commenced, the Chairman thanked the Director of Resources who would be leaving the Council at the end of February 2012 to take up a position at Stratford-upon-Avon District Council. He was thanked for all the help and support he had given.

Members also thanked Zoe Thomas from the Audit Commission as she was moving to another district and would be replaced by Gill Edwards.

AUD.23 Minutes

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman announced a revised running order for the agenda in that item 6 would be taken before item 5.

AUD.24 Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter Ended 30th September 2011

The Committee received a report from the S151 Officer that informed Members of the Internal Audit Monitoring Report for the Quarter ended 30th September 2011.

The Principal Auditor highlighted reports which had been finalised in the quarter, all of which had received "full" or "some" assurances.

Members had concerns that the transfer of the Payroll Section had resulted in paperwork not being produced as they had been led to believe that there would

be no problems with the transfer. Members were reassured that the issue had been sorted out and was now in hand.

The final results of the Elections audit would be given at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

Decision: The Internal Audit Monitoring Report for the Quarter ended 30th September 2011 as detailed in the Appendix to the report be considered.

AUD.25 Annual Audit Letter Wyre Forest District Council 2010/11

The Committee received a report from the Audit Commission that summarised the findings from the 2010/11 audit.

Liz Cave, the District Auditor drew Members' attention to the following:

- Although the Icelandic Supreme Court had judged that local authorities would have "preferred status" to their investments, the first repayment of funds had not yet been received but was expected by Christmas 2011.
- The Council were in an unusual position in that it had not had to borrow money up to the present time.
- The format of the Quarterly Scrutiny Briefing would be changed to a bi-monthly Members Forum to work with the Wyre Forest Forward programme.

In response to a Members' question, the Director of Resources advised that the new Financial Strategy for 2012/15 had been published and within the document it showed that 85% of capital receipts were earmarked for the Council's New Headquarters. It also referred to how the Council would dispose of some of its current properties.

Decision: The contents of the Annual Audit Letter for Wyre Forest District Council 2010/11 be noted.

AUD.26 External Funding Position Statement – Quarters 1 and 2: 2011/12

The Committee received a report from the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services that provided an update on the amount of external funding being attracted into the District during Quarters 1 and 2 of the 2011/12 financial year; and the variety of projects for which the funding was contributing towards for the benefit of the District and its residents.

Member's attention was drawn to funding of £50,000 that had been received from Worcestershire County Council to continue to offer new business grants.

It was also perceived that further funding may become available linked to the Olympics in 2012.

Decision: The information be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm.