

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

12TH MARCH 2012 (6 PM)

Present:

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

AUD.27 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

AUD.28 Appointment of Substitutes

There were no substitutes appointed.

AUD.29 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

AUD.30 Minutes

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

AUD.31 Certification of Claims and Returns – Annual Report 2010/11

The Committee considered a report from the Audit Commission in relation to work that has been undertaken on the certification of Claims and Returns on behalf of the Council.

Members were informed that the Audit Commission was required to report to the Council the key issues arising.

Members stated that it was pleasing to see a slight reduction in the certification fees.

Agreed: The information be noted.

AUD.32 Audit Committee Update Report

The Committee received a new report from the Audit Commission in relation to the audit progress and emerging national issues for noting.

Members were informed that the Audit Commission had produced a new

report to progress on delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external auditors.

Members asked whether the Committee would have any involvement in the Independent Remuneration Panel. The Audit Commission responded that this was something that the Council had to take the lead on.

Agreed: The information be noted.

AUD.33 Audit Commission Audit Plan 2011/12 Report

The Committee received a report from the Audit Commission in relation to the Audit Plan for 2011/12.

The Audit Commission were required to report in more detail as to what they would be considering. Members' were informed that Grant Thornton had won the contract for external audit services across the West Midlands area.

In response to a Members query, it was confirmed that 53% of the Icelandic monies had been received to date.

Agreed: The information be noted.

AUD.34 Internal Audit – Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2012-2015

The Committee received a report from the Acting Section 151 Officer and the Principal Auditor which informed Members of the Audit Plan for 2012-2015.

Members were content with the simplified layout of the report.

Agreed:

- 1. The Strategic Internal Audit Plan be approved.**
- 2. The Section 151 Officer to amend the plan in light of developments arising during the year as described in paragraph 3.6 of the report to the Audit Committee and in accordance with paragraphs 3.3(b) of the approved Terms of Reference for Internal Audit.**

AUD.35 Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter Ended 31st December 2011

The Committee received a report from the Acting Section 151 Officer and the Principal Auditor which informed Members of the Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter ended 31st December 2011.

Members' attention was drawn to the fact no 'unsound' reports had been issued. Three reports had received 'some' assurance.

Agreed: The Internal Audit Monitoring Report for the Quarter ended 31st December 2011 as detailed in the appendix to the report be considered.

AUD.36 Annual Governance Statement – Action Plan

The Committee received a report from the Acting Section 151 Officer which presented to Members the current position in relation to the Action Plan, developed to address the weaknesses identified with the 2010/11 Annual Governance Statement.

Members were informed that within the Statement of Accounts it was a requirement to produce a Governance Statement that concluded with areas of weakness. Members noted that the occupation date in the report stated June 2012 but this had now been put back.

The Acting Director of Resources confirmed to Members that no additional costs had been identified to date due to the delay in occupation of the Council's new Headquarters.

Agreed: The current position of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan for 2010/12 be approved and noted.

AUD.37 Risk Management – Corporate Risk Register

The Committee received a report from the Acting Director of Resources which presented to Members the current position in relation to the Corporate Risk Register.

Members were taken through the Corporate Risk Reports and informed that the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place and the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration – North Worcestershire, were working on PRSBP1142a – ReWyre Initiative, Develop Master Plan and Strategy for the former British Sugar factory, and an update would be reflected in the next report

A Member had concerns that no update had been given on the ReWyre Conference that had been held on 4th November 2011 and that progress was at 0%. The Acting Director of Resources would obtain the information and circulate to Members.

Agreed: The Corporate Risk Register and the associated mitigating actions be considered and noted.

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm.