

# Audit Committee

A meeting of Audit Committee was held on Monday, 29th September, 2008.

**Present:** Cllr John Fletcher (Chairman), Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Mary Womphrey (vice Cllr Mick Womphrey)

**Officers:** I Jones, B Simpson, J Murray (RES); C Andrew (Audit Commission); S Johnson (LD)

**Also in attendance:** No other persons in attendance

**Apologies:** Cllr Maurice Frankland, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Mrs Kath Nelson, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Barry Woodhouse, Cllr Mick Womphrey

## **A Appointment of Chairman**

**28/08**

RESOLVED that Councillor John Fletcher be appointed Chairman of the Audit Committee for this meeting only.

## **A Declarations of Interest**

**29/08**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **A Minutes**

**30/08**

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2008 would be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **A 2007/08 Corporate Governance Report**

**31/08**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the current position on corporate governance across the Council and provided details of actions being implemented to further enhance the Council's approach.

It was noted that a similar report was produced last year on which progress reports had been submitted that monitored the implementation of recommendations contained within the original report. All the previous year's recommendations had been implemented.

It was explained that since the introduction, in 2002, of the CIPFA/ SOLACE principles of governance, a number of similar documents had been produced by various agencies on aspects of governance. Officers had kept abreast of the developments to ensure the Council's approach remained current and previous action plans had been reported to the Committee. The current key documents were:

- Code of Corporate Governance,
- Annual Governance Statement,
- Use of resources Key Line of Enquiry (KLOE),
- Performance management section of Corporate Assessment KLOE,
- Data quality KLOE,
- Corporate Governance framework.

It was noted that 2007/08 was the last year of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment on which the authority was given one of the highest possible

ratings. Consequently, within the four major headings of Governance, i.e. Leadership, Culture and Standards, Community Focus and Structures, Processes & Risk Management, there were no external or internal recommendations worthy of note.

It was explained however that there were elements within the main headings that it was felt progress warranted closer monitoring. These were Business continuity planning, Partnership self assessments and the data files/ data quality aspects of Data Management.

The Committee was given details of the specific issues and how they would be addressed. The action plan would be monitored by the Council's Corporate Governance Group and reported to the Audit Committee.

RESOLVED that the approach and action plan be noted.

**A  
32/08**

### **Audit Commission Annual Governance Report 2007/08**

The Committee gave consideration to the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report 2007/08.

The report summarised the findings from the 2007/08 audit which was substantially complete. The report identified the key issues for the Committee to consider before the Audit Commission issued their opinion, conclusion and certificate.

The Committee noted the comment made at paragraph 4 of the report with regards to the financial statements submitted for audit being well presented and fully supported by comprehensive working papers in an electronic format. The Committee requested that its appreciation of the work undertaken by Council officers, in this regard, be recorded.

RESOLVED that:-

1. the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report be accepted and the Chairman be authorised to sign the representation letter on behalf of the Council.
2. the Committee notes the comment made in the Governance report, at paragraph 4, and appreciates the work undertaken by Council officers in this regard.