

MINUTES

meeting: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

date: **24 JANUARY 2011**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Inston (Chair)
Councillors Jones, Mrs Keirle, Mrs Samuels (part),
P Singh, Mrs Thompson, Turner and Wilson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

P Main	-	Chief Financial Officer
S Kembrey	-	Chief Legal Officer
K Bolister	-	Regeneration and Environment (part)
N Edwards	-	Regeneration and Environment (part)
B Burgess	-	Customer and Shared Services
R Hodister	-	Customer and Shared Services
D Johnston	-	Customer and Shared Services
A Merrick	-	Regeneration and Environment (part)
M Fox	-	Democratic Support, OCE

PRESENT BY INVITATION:-

J Howse	-	PricewaterhouseCoopers (External Auditors)
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Wolverhampton
City Council



PART 1 – OPEN ITEMS
(Open to Press and Public)

Declarations of Interest

71 No interests were raised.

Minutes

72 Resolved:-

(a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 20 December 2010 be approved as a correct record.

(b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit (Examination of Paid Accounts/Monitoring of Audit Investigations) Sub-Committee held on 10 January 2011 be noted.

Attendance Management (Resolution 62b)

73 Responding to a question, the Chief Financial Officer commented that the need for a corporate policy on attendance management would be reported along with the risk register for Customer and Shared Services, which was due for consideration at the next meeting.

Feedback from Sub-Committees

74 No issues were raised by the Chairs of the Sub-Committees.

Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 1/36)

A report was submitted which gave an indication of dates on which reports on individual items would be submitted for consideration. Further information was also tabled at the meeting (Appendix 1/37) in response to a previous request for amendments to the risk register for the Office of the Chief Executive (Democratic Support/Scrutiny). Councillor Turner expressed concern that a number of items in the Schedule had been outstanding for some time and Councillor Jones noted that the items did not include target dates for implementation, although the Chief Financial Officer responded that these are shown in the Committee's workplan. The Chair undertook to consider these items in more detail at the next Chair's agenda meeting.

Councillor Keirle suggested that the item detailing the top 10 risks in all divisions of Customer and Shared Services be deleted, together with confirmation of the definition of risk register items, following the adoption by the Committee of a new framework for reports on departmental and corporate risks.

75 Resolved:-

(a) That the schedule be received.

(b) That the item detailing the top 10 risks in all divisions of Customer and Shared Services be deleted from the schedule.

(c) That it be noted that further consideration would be given to items included within the schedule at the next Chair's agenda meeting.

(d) That the further information about the Risk Register for the Office of the Chief Executive be noted.

Audit Committee Work Programme 2010/11 (Appendix 1/38)

The updated work programme had been circulated for information. Councillor Jones asked a question about partnership funding arrangements and whether these were included in the programme. The Chief Financial Officer confirmed the process for consideration of partnership funding issues, adding that significant partnership risks would be reported by Directors as part of their service risk reports while financial risks are also considered in detail as part of the regular updates to the sub-committee on risks relating to the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

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Resolved:-

That the updated work programme be approved.

ASSURANCE ON SERVICE RISKS

Regeneration and Environment Directorate (Appendix 1/39)

The Chair suggested that this item be considered within the exempt part of the agenda as discussion would include reference to issues falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Resolved:-

That this item be considered within the exempt part of the agenda as discussion will include reference to exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Exclusion of Press and Public

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Resolved:-

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from consideration of the items of business in Part II of the agenda on the grounds that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, exempt information falling within paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act is likely to be disclosed.

PART II - EXEMPT ITEMS
(Press and Public Excluded)

ASSURANCE ON SERVICE RISKS

Regeneration and Environment Directorate (Appendix 1/39)

A report was submitted which set out the key high level risks for the Regeneration and Environment service cluster in 2011/12 and how these are being addressed. Councillor Keirle asked for clarification as to which of the regulatory services detailed in Appendix 1 were statutory functions. Officers responded that they are all statutory functions with the exception of those relating to business support services and transformation. Councillor Keirle also questioned whether more detailed information would be submitted to Audit Committee Members to include relevant issues arising from the planning decision on the Victoria Halls development.

Councillor Jones called for further information about risks arising from the Raglan Street development and also queried whether media and partnership risks should be covered within the report.

At the request of the Chair, officers then gave updated reports on the following projects:-

- Bilston Urban Village
- Summer Row
- Wholly Owned Trading Company

It was noted that a report on Summer Row would be considered by Cabinet on 26 January and Members considered the potential risks should the scheme not proceed. Progress on the Bilston Urban Village project and the possibility of more information being available for the next meeting was noted. Members were also advised that an update surrounding the Wholly Owned Trading Company would be considered by Cabinet in February 2011.

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Resolved:-

(a) That further updates be provided to Members:-

- on the risks arising from the Raglan Street development
- detailing relevant issues arising from the planning decision on the Victoria Halls development
- on any media and partnership risks arising from the issues detailed in the report.

(b) That the latest position on the following projects be noted:-

- Bilston Urban Village
- Summer Row
- Wholly Owned Trading Company.

ASSURANCE ON CORPORATE RISKS

Corporate Risks Update

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The Head of Risk Management and Insurance reported that officers were not in a position to update the Committee about the assurance work that is still in progress relating to corporate risks because lead officers are still completing the individual risk assessments , but that an update should be available for the next meeting.