

# MINUTES

meeting: **AUDIT (FINAL ACCOUNTS MONITORING AND REVIEW) SUB-COMMITTEE**

date: **21 FEBRUARY 2011**

## **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs Samuels(Chair)  
Councillors Inston, Mrs Thompson and Wilson

Councillor Keirle (Audit Committee Member – by invitation)

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors P Singh and Turner (Audit Committee Members)

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-**

P Main	-	Chief Financial Officer
M Taylor	-	Chief Officer, Strategic Financial Services
M Fox	-	Democratic Support Officer

**Wolverhampton**  
City Council



**PART I - OPEN ITEMS**  
**(Open to Press and Public)**

**Declarations of Interest**

20 No interests were declared.

**Minutes**

21 Resolved:-  
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit (Final Accounts Monitoring and Review) Sub-Committee held on 29 November 2010 be approved as a correct record.

**Statutory Services Delivered by the Authority (Resolution 19d)**

22 Responding to a question, the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that the Assistant Chief Executive has been asked to provide Members with a list of statutory services which the Local Authority is obliged to deliver.

**Cabinet (Resources) Panel Papers (Resolution 19e)**

23 Following a request that all Members of Audit Committee be provided with a set of agenda papers for Cabinet (Resources) Panel on a regular basis, the Democratic Support Officer indicated that some Members already received copies of the agenda and that they were also available on the Council website. Members re-affirmed, however, that it was important that Audit Committee Members all be provided with a hard copy of the papers in future.

**Consultation on Changes to Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (Appendix 1/10)**

The report outlined a number of changes to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, which are currently the subject of Government consultation. The Chair noted a proposal in the Regulations that the Chief Financial Officer would certify the draft statement of accounts in future (by 30 June) and that Member approval would not be required at this stage. It was noted however that Members would still be required to approve the final version of the accounts prior to publication in September. The Chair asked whether Members would have an opportunity to view the draft statement prior to the accounts being submitted to the External Auditor and the Chief Financial Officer responded that this could be achieved by arranging an Audit Sub-Committee meeting on 30 June to view the draft.

24 Resolved:-

That the proposed changes to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 be noted, but that it be requested that the draft statement of accounts be made available for viewing by Audit Sub-Committee Members prior to certification by the Chief Financial Officer and submission to the External Auditor.

**International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) – Update on Progress (Appendix 1/11)**

The report detailed progress towards implementing IFRS in respect of the Council's accounts. Councillor Mrs Thompson asked a question about the monitoring of school budgets under the new senior management arrangements. Councillor Wilson added that schools and particularly Governing Bodies needed to be aware of their budgetary responsibilities. The Chief Financial Officer responded that responsibility for advising schools on budget matters currently rested with the Children and Young People Service Group but that consideration is being given to future arrangements following the restructure. Members suggested that the issue needed to be re-considered at a future meeting and the Chief Financial Officer undertook to add it to the Committee Work Programme.

25 Resolved:-

That progress made to date in implementing International Financial Reporting Standards at the Council be noted and that the monitoring of budgetary arrangements for schools be added to the Audit Sub-Committee Work Programme for consideration at a future meeting.

**Budget Risks Update and Review (Appendix 1/12)**

A report was submitted which updated Members on the risks associated with the Council's budgets and finances, in order that Members could consider the related risks and risk management arrangements. Members also noted that the proposed Treasury Management Training session which had been arranged to follow this meeting had been postponed and re-arranged to take place on Monday 14 March 2011.

Councillor Keirle raised an issue about Housing Revenue Account reform and the arrangements for managing risk under the new arrangements. The Chief Officer, Strategic Financial Services, responded that this would be included in a future risks update report to the sub-committee.

26 Resolved:-

(a) That the risks and risk management arrangements relating to the Council's budgets and finances, as outlined in the various appendices attached to the report, be noted.

(b) That the revised arrangements for Treasury Management Training be noted.

(c) That further updates be submitted in accordance with the agreed work programme.

(d) That Members of the Audit Sub-Committee be given an opportunity to view the updated monitoring of risks report, particularly in relation to the Housing Revenue Account.