

# MINUTES

meeting: **AUDIT (EXAMINATION OF PAID  
ACCOUNTS/MONITORING OF AUDIT  
INVESTIGATIONS) SUB-COMMITTEE**

date: **21 MARCH 2011**

**PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs Keirle (Chair)  
Councillors Inston and Mrs Thompson

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-**

Adults and Community

A Ivko, G Cheema (part), O Hayes (part)

Children and Young People

T Clark (part)

Customer and Shared Services

P Main, B Burgess, S Lunn, A Merrick,  
R Morgan, A Sharma

Office of the Chief Executive

M Fox (Democratic Support)

**Wolverhampton**  
City Council



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

**Declarations of Interest**

24 No declarations were raised.

**Minutes**

25 Resolved:-  
That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

**Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 1/10)**

A report was submitted which included comments on any outstanding issues and gave an indication of when progress reports might be submitted. Officers gave an update on checks carried out to ensure that service users in residential homes receive their weekly allowance. Members also confirmed that they had already received an update on expensive property repair costs (Minute 150 – Audit Committee) and the item was deleted from the schedule.

The Chief Financial Officer undertook to pursue measures to programme multi-functional devices not to accept colour printing and to report progress to a future meeting. The Chief Officer (Commercial Services and Public Realm) gave an update on the review of arrangements for the grounds maintenance contract, adding that the item would be considered by the Cabinet (Resources) Panel in June 2011. Members were also concerned that briefing notes had not yet been circulated on other issues detailed within the report and asked that appropriate officers be reminded of the need to provide updated information.

26 Resolved:-  
(a) That the schedule be received and that the following items be deleted from the schedule:-

- Expensive property repair costs
- Weekly Allowance – Residential Home Service Users
- Grounds Maintenance Contract

(b) That officers be reminded to circulate briefing notes as appropriate on items included in the schedule of outstanding minutes.

**Selection of Paid Accounts**

Members had met prior to the meeting to select accounts from amongst the payments where no orders had been raised.

27 Resolved:-

(a) That an Internal Audit review be undertaken into the Council's use of external solicitors, with the results being reported to a future meeting of the Sub Committee.

(b) That it be noted that the following accounts have been selected for Audit Investigation and report to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee:-

**Payments Selected from Payments with No Orders (February 2011)**

#	Line Nos	(£)
1a	12	41351.00
1b	13	12485.52
1c	14	1194.89
2	6	66885.00
3	4	19996.00
4	398	46.79
5	550	35500.00
6	589	8252.86
7	609	30500.00
8	788	4115.97
9	927	20265.50
10a	964	982.85
10b	960	10.50
11	1406	2010.00

**Exclusion of Press and Public**

28 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)**

**Accounts for Examination Selected on 10 January 2011**  
**(Appendix 1/11)**

The Head of Internal Audit presented a report which provided details of the selection of paid accounts from the meeting on 10 January 2011 and details of action to be taken to address any area of weakness in control or compliance with the Council's Financial and Contract Procedure Rules. In connection with Account No 2, Members were not aware of the existence of the Joint Governance Board, which had approved an appointment detailed in the report. With reference to Account No 4, Officers undertook to prepare a briefing note for Members on the names of the Directors of the Wolverhampton City Centre Company.

29 Resolved:-

That the summary of investigations and action to be taken, as detailed in the report, be noted and that a briefing note be circulated to Members by the Interim Strategic Director, Education and Enterprise, detailing the names of the Directors of the City Centre Company.

**Audit Update (Appendix 1/12)**

The Head of Internal Audit presented a report which provided the Sub-Committee with an update of the current position with regard to Audit investigations. It was noted that a number of investigations detailed in the report had now been closed and could be deleted from the schedule. Members expressed continuing concern about case WBP075 and considered that costs should be recovered from the members of staff concerned.

30 Resolved:-

That the current position with regard to audit investigations, as detailed in the report, be noted and that the Interim Strategic Director, Education and Enterprise be asked to consider recovering costs in respect of case WBP075.