

# MINUTES

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

date: **30 JUNE 2011**

## **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Simkins (Acting Chair)  
Councillors Inston, Mrs Keirle and Mrs Thompson

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Mills

## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-**

P Main	-	Assistant Director – Corporate Services
R Morgan	-	Senior Audit Manager
M Fox	-	Democratic Support Officer

**Wolverhampton**  
City Council



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

**Declarations of Interest**

1 No interests were declared.

**Minutes**

2 Resolved:-  
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit (Final Accounts Monitoring and Review) Sub-Committee held on 21 February 2011 be approved as a correct record.

**Budgetary Responsibilities of Schools/Governing Bodies (Resolution 25)**

3 Councillor Mrs Thompson indicated that this issue was to be raised as a potential topic at the Annual Scrutiny Session on 18 July 2011.

**Statutory Services Delivered by the Authority (Minute 22)**

Members expressed concern about information previously submitted in a briefing note to Members giving access to a website about statutory services in general and requested that information be submitted specifically about the statutory services which Wolverhampton Council is obliged to deliver.

4 Resolved:-  
That the Chief Executive/Assistant Chief Executive be requested to submit a report to the main Audit Committee detailing an updated list of statutory services which Wolverhampton Council is obliged by law to deliver.

**Day and Time of Meetings**

5 Resolved:-  
That it be agreed that meetings of the Sub - Committee be held at 1400 hours as follows:-

27 July, 19 September and 5 December 2011 and 27 February 2012.

**Sub-Committee Workplan for the Year (Appendix 1/1)**

A revised version of the Work Programme for 2011/12 was tabled at the meeting.

6 Resolved:-  
That the revised version of the Work Programme be approved.

**Annual Governance Statement 2010/11 (Appendix 1/2)**

The signed version of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was submitted for information and comment. The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) referred particularly to the need for careful consideration of the significant governance issues detailed in section 5 of the statement. Councillor Mrs Keirle asked about the arrangements for preparing Director assurance statements in support of the 2011 AGS and whether it was appropriate for Interim Directors to sign them. Reference was made by Councillor Mrs Thompson to changes to the Council Constitution over the last 12 months and felt that Members of Audit Committee needed to be kept updated about the amendments. This led to a discussion about the revised roles of Assistant Directors and Portfolio Holders following the Council re-structure and the need for updated information to be provided for Members. .

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Resolved:-

(a) That the signed version of the Annual Governance Statement, which is also scheduled for considered by the main Audit Committee on 18 July 2011, be noted.

(b) That further updates be requested on the following:-

- Assistant Directors' service management responsibilities following the senior management restructure
- A composite summary of all changes to the Council Constitution over the last 12 months
- Advice on the legal authority and accountabilities of Interim Directors.

**Draft Statement of Accounts 2010/11 (Appendix 1/3)**

Draft copies of the statement of accounts were tabled for initial consideration. The Assistant Director (Corporate Services) indicated that the Accounts gave a positive message in terms of the authority's financial standing and that the challenges had been met and necessary budgetary savings had been secured. She responded to a question about methods used to ensure that information provided by Directorates was accurate. Members undertook to consider the Accounts in greater detail outside the meeting and to offer feedback as necessary to the Assistant Director.

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Resolved:-

That the Draft Statement of Accounts 2010/11, which is also scheduled to be considered by the main Audit Committee on 18 July 2011, be noted.