

MINUTES

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

date: **5 DECEMBER 2011**

PRESENT:-

Councillor Simkins (Chair)
Councillors Inston and Mrs Thompson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

P Main	-	Assistant Director – Corporate Services
M Taylor	-	Financial Controller – Corporate Services
M Fox	-	Democratic Support Officer

Wolverhampton
City Council



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

Apologies for Absence

- 16 An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs Mills.

Declarations of Interest

- 17 No interests were declared.

Minutes

- 18 Resolved:-
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit (Final Accounts Monitoring and Review) Sub-Committee held on 19 September 2011 be approved as a correct record.

Budget Risks Update and Review (Appendix 1/6)

A report was submitted which detailed the risks and risk management arrangements associated with the Council's budgets and finances.

Councillor Mrs Thompson asked whether the savings target of £36.01M had been realised and the Financial Controller responded that the savings achieved/predicted with a high degree of confidence were still £1.3M short of the 2011/12 target at 30 September 2011 but there was still predicted to be an overall underspend of £4.7M for the year. The Assistant Director – Corporate Services added that this sum would be added to the Council's reserves at year-end and confirmed that there was a requirement to deliver savings of £71.5 M over the next 5 years. Responding to a further question about budget risks, she advised the meeting that the two most significant risks remained single status and equal pay. Councillor Mrs Thompson asked about the risks arising from pending legal hearings on the Victoria Halls development, referring also to the meals on wheels service, which was said to be operating at a loss and the Assistant Director undertook to arrange for briefing notes to be sent to Members on these matters.

The Chair expressed concern about the possibility of funding being withdrawn from the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership and this led to discussion about the levy from the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority and changes to funding for popular bus routes in the City. Members considered that regular reports should be submitted to the Authority by Centro, to include quarterly reports and an annual report at the time of budget setting. The Assistant Director – Corporate Services undertook to arrange for an overview report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub – Committee to cover the budget processes relating to the ITA levy.

19

Resolved:-

(a) That the risks and risk management arrangements relating to the Council's budgets and finances be noted and that further updates be submitted in accordance with the agreed work programme.

(b) That briefing notes be circulated to Members in connection with

- Additional Costs in Operating the Meals on Wheels Service
- Potential Legal Costs arising from Victoria Halls Development.

(c) That a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Sub – Committee giving an overview of the budget processes relating to the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority levy.

Responding to the ISA260 Recommendations

20

Members noted that this report had been withdrawn for further review at the request of the Assistant Director – Corporate Services and would be submitted to the next meeting of the main Audit Committee on 19 December 2011 for consideration.