

MINUTES

meeting: **AUDIT/STANDARDS COMMITTEES JOINT MEETING**

date: **17 JANUARY 2012**

PRESENT:-

Councillors Mrs Bradley, Claymore, Hardacre, Inston, Mrs Keirle, Mrs Mills, O'Neill, Simkins, Mrs Thompson and Wynne
Mr R Aithal, Mr J Harris, Mr G W Hurd, Mr W Parker, and Mr R C Tyler-Morris (Independent Members)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Gwinnett, Leach, Samuels and Turner

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Office of the Chief Executive

J Lancaster - Assistant Chief Executive

Delivery Directorate

L Banbury - Democratic Support Officer
F Davis - Group Manager (Advocacy Services)
D Johnston - Head of Risk Management and Insurance
P Main - Assistant Director (Corporate Services)

For Agenda Item 5

B Bailey - Director of Pensions
P Oliver - Single Status Programme Manager

Wolverhampton
City Council



PART I – OPEN ITEMS

Declarations of Interest

42 No interests were declared.

**Annual Governance Statement – Significant Governance Issues
(Appendix 23)**

The Assistant Director (Corporate Services), Assistant Chief Executive and Group Manager (Advocacy Services) presented a report, which provided current progress in addressing the significant governance issues as detailed in Section 5 of the Annual Governance Statement for the year 2010/2011. The Group Manager (Advocacy Services) advised that, where possible and appropriate, issues would be addressed in the review of the Constitution for approval at the 2012 Annual Council. Members were further advised that the list of major partnerships had been compiled and was currently being reviewed by Internal Audit.

During the ensuing discussion, strong concern was expressed that Members of the Council had not been given the opportunity to read or debate the full review report, arising from the proposed partnership with Axons Solutions Limited, and had only had sight of the 13 'lessons learned' recommendations arising from it. There was a consensus of opinion by Members and independent members present at this meeting that the report should be debated by Council Members. Members expressed further concern that the independent members of the Standards Committee had not had sight of the 13 'lessons learned' recommendations. The Group Manager (Advocacy Services) advised that the Standards Committee's remit related to the content of the Constitution and that they would consider amendments to the Constitution as a consequence of the review at a future date.

A request was also made for the recommendations, following the recent audit by the Information Commissioner's Office, for be circulated to Members of the Audit and Standards Committees.

43 Resolved:-

(a) That the report be received.

(b) That the independent members of the Standards Committee be furnished with copies of the 13 'lessons learned' recommendations arising from the review of the proposed partnership with Axon.

(c) That a letter be sent to the Leader of the Council, expressing concern that Members of the Council have not had the opportunity to read or debate the full review report arising from the proposed partnership with Axon Solutions Limited.

(d) That all Members of the Audit and Standards Committees be furnished with a copy of the recommendations from the recent audit by the Information Commissioner's Office in regard to information governance.

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 paragraph 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act (labour relations implications) is likely to be disclosed.

PART II – EXEMPT ITEMS

Single Status and Equal Pay (Appendix 24)

A report was presented, which provided a briefing on progress in regard to the implementation of Single Status and Equal Pay.

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Resolved:-

That the report be received.