

REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Meetings Held on 21 November 2008 and 23 January 2009

Membership:

Councillors: ACR Chappell (Chairman), MJ Fishley, JHR Goodwin, PJ McCaull, R Mills, RH Smith and AM Toon.

1. THE EXTENT AND VALUES OF CURRENT POOLED BUDGETS

The Committee has received and noted a report regarding the extent and values of pooling of budgets under the National Health Service Act 2006 along with current thinking and planning towards further pooling. The report considered the agreements currently in place and areas covered in those agreements.

2. DATA QUALITY - SIX MONTH UPDATE

The Committee has considered a report which gave a positive response on progress against the data quality action plan as required by the Council's data quality policy and that the data quality position was improving. Members were informed that the data quality process was being driven forward by the officers. The Committee noted that the action plan would be fully completed by the next annual review.

3. USE OF CONSULTANTS

The Committee has considered and noted a report on the Council's use of consultants in 2007/08. The Committee noted also that consultants had been appropriately used and that value for money had been achieved.

4. PLANNING OBLIGATIONS AGREEMENTS

The Committee has considered and noted a report which reviewed arrangements for Planning Obligation Agreements. The Committee discussed the Council's policy arrangements, protocols and procedures with regard to the agreements and noted the proposed new planning system to be put in place during 2009 which would give important help in administering the Agreements.

5. UPDATED ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FRAMEWORK 2008/09

The Committee has noted and approved a report which updated the Annual Governance Statement Framework in line with the Code of Governance approved by Council on 31 October 2008.

6. UPDATE ON AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS - MAY 2007 TO JUNE 2008

The Committee has noted a report which identified the resolutions and recommendations made by the Audit & Corporate Governance Committee between May 2007 and June 2008 that required further monitoring.

7. SECOND INTERIM AUDIT ASSURANCE REPORT 2008/09

The Committee has considered a report which provided the Committee with an update on progress in making the planned improvements to the internal control environment and progress with the Annual Audit Plan for 2008/09. Subject to one of the items in the Action Plan being re-opened, the report was noted.

8. AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee has received and welcomed the Audit Commission's progress report covering its areas of work with the council.

9. USE OF RESOURCES REPORT

The Committee has received a progress report from the Audit Commission on this Council's management and use of resources. In noting that the Council's overall performance had improved and was performing well, the Committee requested to receive at its next meeting from the Interim Director of Resources, a report detailing the Audit Commission's recommendations as set out in its report, the progress to date and future actions on those recommendations.

10. REVIEW OF SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Committee has considered a report and has made recommendations for acceptance of the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to Council.

11. DRAFT REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee has considered draft revised terms of reference and proposed change of name for the Committee. The Committee resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee should meet with the Chief Internal Auditor to discuss the proposed terms of reference with reference to suggestions made and that the amended version be reported to the next Committee meeting.

12. THIRD INTERIM ASSURANCE REPORT 2008/09

The Committee has considered and noted a report which has provided an update on progress in making the planned improvements to the internal control environment and on progress with the Annual Audit Plan for 2008/09.

13. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS

In receiving and noting a report on the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) to local authority accounts, the Committee has

resolved to receive periodic reports which will give details of an action plan and progress on the plan in respect of the introduction of the IFRS.

**A.C.R. CHAPPELL
CHAIRMAN
AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda papers of the meeting of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee held on 21 November 2008 and 23 January 2009