

DECISIONS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

20 March 2007

COMMITTEE:

*Councillor Jeremy Davies BA (Hons) CPFA (Chairman)

*Councillor Daniel Thomas BA (Hons) (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

* Danish Chopra

* Richard Cornelius

* Mukesh Depala (substituting for
\$ Dean Cohen BSc (Hons))

* Marina Yannakoudakis BSc (Hons) MA

* Geof Cooke

*denotes Member present

\$ denotes Member absent on Council Business

1. MINUTES:

RESOLVED – That the decisions of the meeting held on 28 February 2007 be approved as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS:

Apologies were received from Councillor Dean Cohen who was at a School Governing Body meeting.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

There were no public questions.

4. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

No interests were declared.

5. MEMBERS' ITEMS:

None were received.

6. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (Report of the Deputy Director for Resources and Chief Finance Officer – Agenda Item 6)

The Deputy Director for Resources and Chief Finance Officer's representative advised the Committee that there had been a limited response from other boroughs in response to enquiries regarding their inclusion of co-opted members on their audit committees, and as a consequence no meaningful feedback could be provided.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the review of effectiveness of the Committee over the past year, attached at Appendix A to the report, be noted and

(i) the Deputy Director for Resources and Chief Finance Officer be instructed to investigate the implications of various options for inclusion of co-opted members on the Committee, including having either no co-opted members, or one or two co-opted members either as permanent members of the Committee or involved on an ad-hoc basis, and report back to a future meeting of the Committee;

(ii) the Head of Internal Audit and Ethical Governance be instructed to re-instate the reporting of summaries of quality questionnaires from managers reviewed to the Committee.

- (2) That the Committee had no further development requirements for its Members, beyond those identified at its last meeting.
- (3) That the Committee's terms of reference as set out in the Constitution and at Appendix B to the report be noted and that no recommendations for change be made.

7. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (Report of the Deputy Director for Resources and Chief Finance Officer – Agenda Item 7)

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the revised financial regulations attached at Appendix A to the report be recommended to the Special Committee (Constitution Review) for approval and subsequent recommendation for adoption at Council in place of the existing regulations.
- (2) That the Deputy Director for Resources & Chief Finance Officer be instructed to update the Special Committee (Constitution Review) of the decision of this Committee under (1) above.

8. UPDATE OF THE CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES (Report of the Executive Director for Resources – Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Contract Procedure Rules attached at Appendix A to the report be recommended to the Special Committee (Constitution Review) for approval and subsequent recommendation for adoption in place of the existing rules at Council.
- (2) That the Executive Director for Resources be instructed to advise the Special Committee (Constitution Review) of this Committee's decision under (1) above.

9. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ON DATA QUALITY (Report of the Deputy Director for Resources and Chief Finance Officer – Agenda Item 9)

RESOLVED – That the Committee note the recommendations of the external auditor's report and action plan.

10. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ON GRANTS SUBMISSION PROCESS (Report of the Deputy Director for Resources and Chief Finance Officer – Agenda Item 10)

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the matters raised by the external auditor relating to the grants submission and certification process be noted.
- (2) That the officer response to the matters raised by the external auditors be noted.
- (3) That the Deputy Director for Resources and Chief Finance Officer be instructed to
 - (i) report to the next meeting of the Committee on the implementation of the Pericles computer system and the expected outcome for the next grants submission process report and other issues regarding housing stock and housing benefits;
 - (ii) invite representatives from Barnet Homes and the Council's Housing Service to attend the meeting to deal with any queries on these issues.

11. 2007/8 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL PLAN (Report of the Head of Internal Audit and Ethical Governance – Agenda Item 11)

The Head of Internal Audit and Ethical Governance advised the Committee that the client for the Data Quality (BVPI) audit noted on page 201 of the agenda was the Director of Adult Social Services and the Director of Children's Services, and the title of the final audit noted on Page 208 of the agenda should read "Principal Development Agreement".

RESOLVED –That the Draft 2007/8 Internal Audit Annual Plan be approved.

12. ANNUAL WORKPLAN OF THE CORPORATE ANTI-FRAUD TEAM 2007 (Report of the Acting Head of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team and Deputy Director of Corporate Governance– Agenda Item 12)

The Deputy Director of Corporate Governance advised the Committee that on page 231 of the agenda, the reference to the “Fraud Awareness and Education Programme” under the first initiative on that page should read “Fraud Awareness and Induction Programme”.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team Annual Workplan for 2007-08 be noted.

13. CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (Report of the Executive Director for Resources – Agenda Item 13)

RESOLVED – That the revised Risk Management Strategy be accepted as the policy and procedure by which the Authority will monitor and manage risk.

14. CORPORATE RISKS UPDATE (Report of the Executive Director for Resources – Agenda Item 14)

The Executive Director for Resources’ representative undertook to provide the Committee with the text missing from the end of the entry in the Current Status column of the table on Page 251 of the agenda under row reference 11.

RESOLVED –That progress on the management of corporate risks be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm