

DECISIONS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

16 DECEMBER 2009

COMMITTEE:

*Councillor Jeremy Davies BA (Hons) CPFA (Chairman)
*Councillor John Marshall (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

Danish Chopra	* Tom Davey	* Andreas Tambourides
* Geof Cooke	* Alan Schneiderman (sub for Cllr Danish Chopra)	* Darrel Yawitch

*denotes Member present

1. MINUTES:

RESOLVED – That the decisions of the meeting held on 29 September 2009 be approved as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Danish Chopra.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

There were no public questions.

4. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:

No interests were declared.

5. MEMBERS' ITEMS (Agenda Item 5):

There were no Members Items.

6. THE LATE RICHARD TREMEER

The Chairman referred to the recent death of Mr Richard Tremeer, Grant Thornton's external audit lead for Barnet. Committee Members and officers in attendance then stood in silence for a minute in tribute to Mr Tremeer.

7. INTERNAL AUDIT INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10 (AGENDA ITEM 6)

In connection with the work carried out on the billing arrangements for the Meals at Home contract, the Committee received a presentation on the action taken to improve the efficiency of the processes but were concerned that the last follow-up audit opinion was still at limited assurance. They considered that work towards full assurance should be prioritised and asked for a report to be submitted to their next meeting on progress. The Committee accordingly

RESOLVED –

1. That the Committee note the contents of the report and the actions being

carried out to address deficiencies.

2. That the Committee consider that the work to achieve full assurance on the Meals at Home contract be prioritised and that the officers be instructed to report on progress.

8. USE OF RESOURCES 2008/9; REPORT FROM EXTERNAL AUDIT (Report of the Interim Head of Compliance– Item 7)

RESOLVED –

1. That the findings and twelve recommendations by the External Auditor be noted.
2. That the action that the Council is planning to take in response to the recommendations be noted.
3. That a report on the implementation of the action plan be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee in March 2010.

9. PROGRESS ON THE INTERNAL CONTROL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Report of the Interim Head of Compliance– Item 8)

The Committee noted that a report was intended for a future meeting on the framework for accountability and compliance testing of control systems currently under development. They asked that this should be presented to the Committee's next meeting in March 2010.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Committee notes the progress on the Internal Control Improvement Plan presented as Appendix 1 to the report
2. That the framework report be submitted to the Committee's meeting in March 2010.

10. INTRODUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRS) (Report of the Interim Director of Finance - Item 9)

RESOLVED

1. That the Committee note the likely implications for the Council of the introduction and implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
2. That the Committee note the progress to date.
3. That an update report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee, preferably in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

11. ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES RISK REGISTER (Report of the Director of Adult Social Services - Item 10)

The Committee also received a presentation from the Director of Adult Social Services and colleagues on this matter. In order to discuss issues around litigation risks associated with the Catalyst arbitration claim and the sheltered housing judicial review the Committee

RESOLVED - That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1974 the public be excluded from the meeting for the discussion of the above-mentioned items on the grounds that this would involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph x of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) order 2006

The representatives of Grant Thornton attending the meeting also left the room at this point to avoid any potential conflict of interest with parties involved in the Catalyst Arbitration.

Having received exempt information relating to these issues and discussed relevant matters with the officers, the Committee

RESOLVED – That the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting

Having considered the report the Committee

RESOLVED – That the Adult Social Services Directorate's approach to Risk Management within Corporate policy be noted

12. INTERNAL AUDIT STRATEGY (Report of the Interim Head of Internal Audit - Item 11)

RESOLVED - That the Internal Audit Strategy for the year beginning April 2010 to March 2011 be approved.

13. INDEPENDENT ADVISERS (Report of the Director of Corporate Governance- item 12)

RESOLVED - That the Committee agree that two independent non-voting members should be appointed to the Audit Committee on the basis set out in the report and that a report be taken by the officers to the next meeting of the Special Committee (Constitution Review) with a view to seeking approval from Council to the necessary changes to the Audit Committee's membership as set out in the Constitution.

The meeting closed at 9.56pm