

**Minutes of the Audit Committee
21 March 2013**

Present:

Councillor D. Gohil (Chairman)

Councillors:

C.M. Frazer

A.C. Patterson

In Attendance: Councillor T.J.M. Evans, Portfolio Holder for Finance

Apologies: Councillors J. Dale, M.J. Madams, D. Patel and C.V. Strong

75/13 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2012 were approved as a correct record.

76/13 Corporate Risk Management

The Audit Manager reported that the Corporate Risk Register had undergone its regular quarterly review and update by the Corporate Risk Management Group and Management Team to ensure that actions were being taken to deal with the identified risks.

The revised register was considered to be an accurate reflection of the high level risks affecting the Authority. Progress on actions was documented on the register. The Audit Manager highlighted the areas in which progress had been made and one area which had not been fully addressed relating to the updating of procurement guidance. Four new actions had been added to the Risk Register in order to mitigate the associated risks.

Members were concerned about risks relating to the impact of welfare reform and council tax support and asked that the Committee receives regular updates with details of these issues.

RESOLVED that the Corporate Risk Register be noted.

77/13 Internal Audit Annual Plan 2013/14

The Head of Audit Services outlined the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2013/2014 which demonstrated how the authority would fulfil its statutory requirement to 'maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper internal audit practices.'

The Internal Audit Plan Summary attached to the report set out the scope of internal audit work and reflected work relied upon by external audit.

RESOLVED to note the Internal Audit Annual Plan 2013/2014.

78/13 Public Sector Internal Audit Standards

The Head of Audit services explained that the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (the Standards) came into effect from 1 April 2013. The Standards had been adapted from mandatory internal audit standards to meet the special requirements of public sector organisations in the UK.

She advised that the new Standards would replace the CIPFA Code of Practice and that compliance was mandatory. She also outlined the three key new requirements introduced by the Standards:

- five yearly independent review of Internal Audit;
- Chairman of the Audit Committee to be consulted on the Head of Audit's remuneration and performance and
- Audit Committee required to approve any significant consultancy work undertaken by Internal Audit.

RESOLVED to note the report on Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

79/13 External Audit Plan 2012/13

The Chief Finance Officer explained that the External Audit Plan report set out the auditor's two main objectives relating to the audit of the financial statements and their value for money conclusion. The plan set out the key risks the auditors had identified their approach to undertaking their work and reporting processes.

RESOLVED to note the External Audit Plan 2012/13 from the Council's external auditor KPMG.

80/13 Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered its Work Programme for the 2012-2013 Municipal year.

RESOLVED to note the Committee Work Programme 2012-2013.

