

**THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESTER-LE-STREET**

Report for the Special Meeting of the Audit Committee held on Tuesday 13 February 2007 at 4.00pm.

Members Present: Councillors C Carr (Chairman), R Richardson, G Armstrong and JM Proud

Officers: M Welsh (Principle Auditor), G Clark (ICT Manager), S High (Leisure Services Manager) and C Turnbull (Democratic Services Officer).

**82 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of J McConnell (Chief Internal Auditor).

**83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

**84 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED: "That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act."

**85 OUTSTANDING ISSUES – LEISURE CENTRE**

With reference to minute no. 76 of the meeting of the Committee held 11 January 2007 further consideration was given to outstanding issues from a recent audit at the Leisure Centre.

The ICT Manager was present at the meeting and responded to questions from Members on the interface between the Agresso and Gladstone systems. He confirmed that following initial problems the interface link had been operating correctly since mid January. He also confirmed that the Council's accountancy staff do not have access to the Gladstone system.

**At this point, S High, Leisure Services Manager, was invited into the meeting.**

The Leisure Services Manager advised that problems with the link between the Agresso and Gladstone systems had caused delays in implementing the new arrangements. He explained the current banking arrangements and the new arrangements that would apply following the link up with Agresso.

It was proposed to go live with the link from 1 March 2007 with the current banking arrangements continuing during a month long trial period. From 1 April 2007 banking would be direct to Leeds.

He confirmed that 'unders' and 'overs' would be declared at the leisure facilities prior to banking. New procedures would replicate those at the Civic Centre and 3 key staff at the leisure facilities would receive training from the Chief Cashier.

The Leisure Services Manager advised that budget savings had affected his proposals for administrative support and he was endeavouring to identify other areas to provide the necessary funds. He added it was crucial he had the 'team' in place by 1 April 2007.

RESOLVED:

"1. That the Chief Internal Auditor examine proposed banking arrangements from leisure facilities.

2. That during week commencing 7 May 2007, the Chief Internal Auditor check to ensure that the link between Agresso and Gladstone systems is operating and that the new arrangements are working satisfactorily."

The meeting terminated at 4.55pm