

Meeting of the **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District Council held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on **MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2008 at 1.00 pm**

PRESENT:

Councillors: PM Charlton, MWL Hamilton and WHT Salvin (Chair)

Independent Members:

DW Armstrong and KM Mitchell

Apologies were received from Councillors DP Blackie and B Harrison

Also present: R Walker, S Reeve, C Waddell – Audit Commission

Officers in Attendance:

J Kellett (Chief Finance Officer), M Dennis (Chief Governance Officer), A Wallage (Durham County Council – Audit Manager), J Horsman (Trainee Auditor), G Robinson (Democratic Services Officer)

20 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

22 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

23 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Chief Governance Officer presented the updated Annual Governance Statement previously submitted to the Special Council meeting on 16 June 2008, prior to the submission of the Statement of Accounts for 2007/08, to Council on 30 June 2008. It was a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (Regulations) 2006, that the Annual Governance Statement be updated until such time as the audited accounts were submitted to Council for formal approval. The Statement had been updated in respect of significant changes that had occurred since approval, in particular the outcomes of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment reported by the Audit Commission in June 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the updated Annual Governance Statement for 2007/08 be approved.

24 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT: SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Chief Governance Officer submitted a report, as requested at the last meeting, outlining progress to date on those governance issues which were considered to be of particular strategic significance, as highlighted in particular, through the work of the Internal and External Auditors during the year.

RESOLVED:

That the action taken, or to be taken, in respect of the significant governance issues identified in the initial Annual Governance Statement be noted.

25 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN UPDATE

The Audit Manager submitted a report updating members on the progress made against the revised internal audit plan for 2008/09. Provision was made in the 2008/09 plan to conclude audits that were planned to be completed in 2007/08. Of those audits carried over from last year, the Legal Services and Sports Centre reviews had been completed since the last meeting and reports relating to these reviews were presented as appendices.

RESOLVED:

(1) That members note the progress made to date.

(2) That the Chief Governance Officer and the Audit Manager progress the outstanding recommendation relating to excess charge tickets.

26 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Chief Finance Officer presented the audited statement of accounts for approval. The unaudited statement of accounts for the financial year 2007/08 was approved by Council at its meeting on 30 June 2008. The Audit Commission had completed the audit of the statement of accounts and issued a draft Annual Governance Report. The Audit Commission had identified a small number of amendments to the statement of accounts and highlighted two areas that will be addressed during the current financial year.

RESOLVED:

That the audited statement of accounts for the financial year 2007/08 be recommended to Full Council for approval.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm

CHAIRMAN