

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2008**

Present: Councillor G Pinkney (Chair)  
Councillors E Bell, R Davison,  
G. Johnson, K. McGonnell  
and B. Quinn.

Apology: Councillor Mrs G. Bleasdale

1. **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 11 September 2008, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.
2. **RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT**

Consideration was given to the report of the Governance and Risk Manager which gave details of progress on the Council's approach to managing risk and the implementation of the Council's Risk Management Strategy to provide assurance that the Council effectively managed its risks. A copy of the report had been circulated to each Member.

S Wardle, Governance and Risk Manager referred to the updated Risk Management Workplan at Appendix 1 which included relevant action plans, progress monitors and a traffic light status indicator for all areas of work.

He explained that the recent completion of the Corporate Risk Review (CRR) had made a positive impact across a wide range of actions and this was reflected in the Workplan. Members were pleased to note that with the exception of significant partnerships all initiatives and actions were completed. S Wardle advised that progress had been made in relation to significant partnerships with the completion of the Action Plan although further work was required to consider 'other' partnerships.

A key area within the Workplan was the Local Government Reorganisation, which was continually updated to take account of risks and developments. The CRR also included specific reference to risks and the risk implications arising from the LGR to the District Council.

In dealing with this, the Council's Transitional Plan was regularly updated and he was involved with the LGR Risk Management Workstream. Arrangements were being put in place to ensure that the new Authority had adequate risk management arrangements including the assimilation of all corporate risks across all the District Councils in preparation for vesting day.

A Member referred to the rating given to risk 0007 – impact of worldwide credit crisis and financial implications on Council objectives. S Wardle stated that this rating had been determined jointly by Management Team and the Corporate Risk Management Steering Group and would be carefully managed and regularly monitored up to vesting day when it would become the responsibility of the new Council to ensure that the risk was managed effectively.

## **Audit Committee – 16 October 2008**

The Member considered that this was a significant risk that should be highlighted to the new Council and asked that it be raised within the LGR Risk Management Workstream.

In discussing this, Members asked if the current global situation would have an impact on the Council's financial position. S Wardle acknowledged that the financial markets were volatile at present but added that the Council had a robust medium term financial plan which placed the Council in a strong position financially. However it was becoming clear that expected capital receipts from land and property disposals for 2008/9 were unlikely to materialise in the current year. This was being reviewed and the Council's overall financial position would continue to be monitored through regular budget reports to Executive.

In response to a further question about the different approaches to risk management currently undertaken by the LGR Councils, and how this would be managed under the new arrangements, S Wardle advised that the Workstream was pulling together all key corporate risks identified by each Council to produce a new Corporate Risk Register for the Unitary Authority.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

JE/CB/COM/AUDIT/081002  
21 October 2008