

Minutes of the Audit Committee

7th July 2008 at 3.00 pm
at the Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Turner (Chair);
Councillor Robinson (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Jones, Spence and Ward.
Mr Ager (Independent Member).

21/08 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2008, be approved as a correct record.

22/08 **Statement of Accounts**

The Committee noted the Authority's 2007/2008 Statement of Accounts.

The Treasurer's representative gave the Committee further detailed information regarding the Authority's earmarked reserves. Members expressed particular interest in the future of the Brigade's training towers and requested a further report on this. Clarity was also sought in connection with an earmarked reserve for legal costs. Members were provided with an explanation of how this figure had been determined and were advised that a more detailed report would be submitted to the Executive Committee on the issues.

Members requested a briefing prior to the Committee's next meeting on the layout of the Authority's accounts.

Resolved that a report be submitted to the Committee regarding the Brigade's training towers and options for their future use.

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23/08 **Insurance Arrangements**

The Committee noted a report, which gave details on the Authority's insurance procurement process, background to the current insurance arrangements and an update on the current position with regards to mutual insurance arrangements.

24/08 **Audit Committee Self Assessment**

The Committee received a presentation from Sandwell MBC's Audit Services Manager regarding the options for the Authority's self-assessment process.

The Committee felt that some assistance was required in carrying out the self-assessment exercise but did not feel that it was necessary to employ external auditors.

Members requested that the exercise include a discussion on the breakdown of costs in relation to the new Headquarters Project.

Resolved that the Authority engage the services of Sandwell MBC's Audit Services to assist in carrying out its self-assessment;

25/08 **Work Programme 2008/2009**

The Committee approved its updated work programme for 2008/09.

26/08 **Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 13th October 2008, at 3.00pm.

(The meeting ended at 4.30 pm)

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