

**Minutes of the Audit and Performance  
Management Committee**

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 2.00 pm**  
**at Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham**

**Present:** Councillor Turner (Chair);  
Councillors Docker, and A Hill.  
Mr Ager (Independent Member).

**Also Present:** Councillor Douglas-Maul (Lead Member Performance  
Management)

**Apology:** Councillor Clinton.

14/11 **Audit Plan 2010/2011**

Approval was sought to the Audit Commission's Audit Plan and proposed fees for 2010/2011. The plan set out the work the Audit Commission proposed to undertake to support the audit of financial statements; the value for money conclusion for 2010/2011 and the fee associated with the delivery of the plan.

The plan was based upon the Audit Commission's risk based approach to audit planning and reflected current national risks relevant to local circumstances and local risks.

The Chair commented that the plan was positive, which reflected the good work by officers and communications with internal audit, and asked if this would be reflected by a reduction in the proposed fee. It was reported that the positivity within the plan was as a result of the smooth implementation of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The current fee regime would continue, however, there would possibly be an opportunity to consider reductions in 2011/2012 but they were not likely to be significant.

**Resolved** that approval be given to the Audit Commission's Plan and fees for 2010/2011.

## Audit and Performance Management Committee – 28th March 2011

### 15/11 Internal Audit Progress Report

The Committee noted a progress report on the work of internal audit in delivering the 2010/2011 Internal Audit Plan.

In relation to the Key Issues Arising, on General Pensions and Payroll, it was noted that recommendations were made in respect of introducing a review system for personnel who had retired on ill health benefits to ensure that overpayments were not made. The Director Finance and Procurement added where people's circumstances had changed their pension payments needed to be adjusted accordingly.

### 16/11 Skills Audit Results

The Committee noted the results of the Audit Committee Member Skills Audit.

Officers were requested to look at providing training in the new municipal year to address the skills gaps identified.

### 17/11 Strategy for Internal Audit 2011/2012 to 2013/2014

The Committee received a proposed Strategy for Internal Audit for the period 2011/2012 to 2013/2014.

The Strategy was not static but was a dynamic plan, which would be updated periodically to reflect changes in the risks faced by the Authority. In the period covered by the strategy, the priority and frequency of audit work would be subject to amendment in order to recognise alterations in the audit needs assessment/risk analysis, caused by changes within the Authority and the requirements of the Audit Committee and senior managers.

During the year regular meetings would be held with senior managers and the external auditors to review the plan and discuss the scope, nature and timescales of planned reviews. Any changes to the strategy would be brought before the Committee for approval.

**Resolved** that the Internal Audit Strategy for 2011/2012 to 2013/14, as now received, be approved.

**Audit and Performance Management Committee – 28th March 2011**

18/11 **Update on Topical, Legal and Regulatory Issues**

There were no updates.

19/11 **Work Programme 2010/11**

The Committee noted its work programme for 2010/2011.

(The meeting ended at 2.15 pm)

*Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock  
Democratic Services Unit  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
0121 569 3189*