

Minutes of the Audit and Performance Committee

11th October 2010, at 1.15 pm
at Fire Service Headquarters, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Turner (Chair);
Councillor Clinton (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Docker and Eustace;
Mr Ager (Independent Member).

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

Observers: Councillor Davies, Douglas-Maul and Whitehouse.

Apology: Councillor A Hill.

35/10 **Minutes**

The Committee received the minutes of its meeting held on 6th September, 2010. The Director Corporate Services requested that the resolution in Minute No. 34/10 be amended to refer to 'Corporate' Risk Management Champion.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September, 2010 be approved as a correct record, subject to the resolution in Minute No. 34/10 being amended to refer to 'Corporate' Risk Management Champion.

36/10 **Annual Governance Report**

The Committee received the Report to Those Charged with Governance, which the Authority had received at its meeting on 20th September, 2010.

The report indicated that the Audit Commission had concluded that the Authority had made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31st March 2010. The Audit Commission had subsequently issued an unqualified audit opinion.

Audit and Performance Management Committee – 11th October 2010

The Committee noted that the Audit Commission was to be disestablished under the Coalition Government. John Gregory of the Audit Commission reported that there were no immediate changes and the present arrangements would continue until further notice.

37/10 **Governance Standards – the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Update on Progress on Action Plan**

Further to Minute No. 7/10 of the former Audit Committee (11th January, 2010) the Committee noted the completion of the Action Plan, which had been developed to address gaps identified by the self assessment carried out in 2009.

As a consequence of the new Coalition Government's stance on reducing the volume of regulations impacting upon local government, some areas of the framework document were already obsolete e.g. areas relating to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), and Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE). It was therefore proposed to suspend any further work in this area until further guidance was received on future requirements. Work on the current action plan would continue.

Resolved that any further work on implementing the CIPFA/SOLACE Governance Guidance Framework be suspended until further guidance is received from Central Government on future requirements in this area.

38/10 **Internal Audit Progress Report**

The Committee noted a progress report on internal audit activity up to August 2010.

39/10 **Work Programme 2010/11**

The Committee noted its work programme for 2010/2011

(The meeting ended at 1.30 pm)

<p><i>Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock Democratic Services Unit Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council 0121 569 3189</i></p>
