



# Rutland County Council

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Minutes of a meeting of the **AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, at 7.00 pm Tuesday, 29 July 2010.

PRESENT: Mr P D Ind (in the Chair)  
Mr G Plews  
Mr N M Wainwright

In attendance: Mr T C King

Officers present:	Mr M Baish	Director of Corporate Services
	Mrs A S Brown	Democratic Services Officer
	Ms S Dring	Technical Accountant
	Ms D Muddimer	Head of Strategic Finance

Apologies: Mr K A Bool  
Mr J T Dale

## 173. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 19 April 2010 be confirmed.

## 174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in respect of the items on the agenda for this meeting.

## 175. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received.

## 176. CIPFA DRAFT STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT

Report No. 124/2010 from the Head of Consortium was received. The report provided an opportunity for Members to decide if they wished to respond to the consultative document issued by CIPFA.

During consideration, the Committee noted the following points:

- Internal audits mirror external audits to ensure standards are being met and issues which could be audited by external bodies would be highlighted;
- The draft statement issued was the national position and not specific to Rutland alone;
- Auditor fees were based on a national scale provided by the Audit Commission and could not be negotiated. To ensure costs are kept to a minimum Officers aim to produce good accounts and successful internal audits to reduce the time contracted from external auditors.

## **RESOLVED**

That Officers respond to CIPFA with agreement and support of the draft statement.

### **177. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Report No. 125/2010 from the Head of Consortium was received. The report provided an opportunity for Members to agree their participation in training to assist in their role as an Audit & Risk Committee member.

During consideration the Committee noted the following points:

- The level of training provided to be considered prior to commitment;
- All Councillors to participate in training rather than those on the Audit & Risk Committee as it was felt to be necessary for all Member roles.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Head of Consortium provide options, levels and costs involved to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

### **178. ANNUAL REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDIT FOR 2009/10**

Report No. 126/2010 from the Head of Consortium was received. The report requested Members to approve the Annual Report of Internal Audit and the Internal Audit Opinion which it supports.

During consideration the Committee noted the following points:

- Issues surrounding those audits with disappointing ratings had been highlighted and resolved;
- New financial systems have had teething problems which had now been resolved;
- Officers were confident that ratings would be much improved should audits be completed again;
- Ratings were provisional until signed off by the Chief Executive;
- Administrative support was being considered in order to best utilise resources available.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Annual Report of Internal Audit and the Internal Audit Opinion that it supports be **APPROVED**.

### **179. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

Report No. 138/2010 from the Director of Corporate Services was received. The report was a statutory requirement for Council to approve the inclusion of the Annual Governance Statement in its published Statement of Accounts for 2009/10.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Annual Governance Statement at Appendix A of Report No. 138/2010 be recommended for inclusion in the 2009/10 Statement of Accounts.

### **180. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/10**

Report No. 139/2010 from the Director of Corporate Services was received. Members were requested to consider the presented Statement of Accounts for 2009/10.

During consideration the Committee noted the following points:

- School budgets and employment of teachers would be removed from the Statement of Accounts should those schools become independent academies in the future;
- Pension figures for teachers were also included within the Statement of Accounts but would be removed should those teachers become employed by an independent academy;
- Provision had been made within the accounts, following investment in an Icelandic bank, to cover the deficit based upon assumptions that 85% would be recovered;
- A decision would be required by Council regarding the options to disseminate costs following the announcement by Government to increase VAT;

## **RESOLVED**

That the publication and submission to the external auditor of the Statement of Accounts 2009/10 at Appendix A of Report No. 139/2010 be **APPROVED**.

### **181. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The following item of urgent business had previously been notified to the person presiding:

Audit Opinion Plan

### **182. AUDIT OPINION PLAN**

The Audit Opinion Plan was circulated to Members for their approval.

During consideration the following point was noted:-

- The closed fee had been increased from £150,685 to £157k and, whilst this was still within budget, was felt by Members to be excessive for an authority of this size.

## **RESOLVED**

That The Audit Opinion Plan be **APPROVED**.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.52pm.

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Chairman