

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Monday 28th June 2010

COUNCILLORS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: The Chair (Councillor Beverley Hazell), the Vice-Chair (Councillor Clark Brundin), Councillors Roy Darke, Bryan Keen, David Rundle and Scott Seamons.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING: Councillor David Williams.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: Mathew Metcalfe and Jeremy Thomas (Law and Governance), Peter Sloman (Chief Executive), Jacqueline Yates (Director, Finance and Efficiency), Sarah Fogden, Anna Winship and Kelly whitehead (Finance), Maria Grindley and Alan Witty (Audit Commission), Richard Bacon and Katherine Bennett (Pricewaterhousecoopers (PWC)).

8. ADDRESS BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

The Chair allowed Mr Feeney to address the Committee for 3 minutes.

Mr Feeney said that he had been to inspect the accounts, but had to wait a week for an appointment to do so. He had also made a request in January 2010 to inspect money orders and was told that Penny Gardner would write to him, which she has not. He said that it was in statute that it was a criminal offence to obstruct the inspection of the accounts and that his view was that it was unacceptable for the Council to act in this way. He asked the Audit and governance Committee when he could see the money orders and payments and asked if it felt that this was appropriate.

Mr Feeney raised the issue of the former Deputy Lord Mayor making a response to changes to the Core Strategy. However the Chair informed Mr Feeney that his time was up and that this issue was not within the remit of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Jeremy Thomas in response to comments on inspecting the accounts, said that Mr Feeney had a right to inspect the accounts and make an objection, officers had not been obstructing him from doing this if he wished.

The Committee agreed to note the comments of Mr Feeney and asked that the Head of Finance report back to the Audit and Governance Committee on whether or not there had been a delay in Mr Feeney inspecting the documents etc. that he had requested and if there was a delay the reason for this.

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

11. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS INCLUDING ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Head of Finance submitted a report which detailed the Oxford City Council Statement of Accounts 2009/10 and the Annual Governance Statement and sought approval for the publication of the 2009/10 Statement of Accounts and its submission to the external auditor.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To approve the Statement of Accounts for 2009/10 for submission to the external auditor;
- (b) To approve the change to accounting policy in respect of long term contracts;
- (c) That the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee signs the Statement of Accounts 2009/10 and the Annual Governance Statement;
- (d) To request officers to include where available dates within the Annual Governance Statement of when issues raised under "Significant Governance Issues" would be resolved;
- (e) To thank all officers involved in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement for their work during this process.

12. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT – PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS (PWC)

The Head of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which presented the annual opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's systems and internal control and was based upon the work agreed and undertaken as part of the annual internal audit plan.

Richard Bacon and Katherine Bennett (PWC) introduced the report.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To note the report;
- (b) To request Pricewaterhousecoopers (PWC) to supply a revised heat map to the Audit and Governance Committee Members detailing areas of risk etc.

13. MINUTES

The Committee agreed to approve the minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings held on 27th April 2010 and 20th May 2010.

14. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (a) Minute 124 – Skills of Audit and Governance Committee Members (Audit and Governance Committee 27th April 2010)

Members of the Committee held that it would be very beneficial to members of the Committee to establish and maintain a training programme for the year. In response Jacqueline Yates said that Officers would draw up a training programme for the remainder of the year.

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee noted that it would meet in the Town Hall at 5.00pm on the following dates:

Thursday 15th July 2010
Thursday 23rd September 2010
Monday 22nd November 2010
Monday 31st January 2011
Monday 28th March 2011

16. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee noted that items raised during this meeting for future updates, reports etc. would be placed in the forward plan.

17. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

None submitted.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.45 pm