

CIVIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE28 June 2006
(6.00pm- 6.40pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Boyce (Chair), Bradnack, Hart, C. Rosenstiel, Stebbings, Ward.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**06/CIV/22 MINUTES**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of 15 May 2006 as a correct record and these were signed by the Chair.

06/CIV/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

06/CIV/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

06/CIV/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

06/CIV/26 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING PARTY**Resolved –**

To appoint the Chief Officer Performance Review WP for 2006/07 comprising Cllrs Cantrill Nimmo-Smith, J Rosenstiel, Smart, Bradnack and Herbert.

Councillor Boyce proposed Councillor Nimmo-Smith as Chair; Councillor Hart proposed Councillor Bradnack. Councillor Nimmo-Smith was confirmed as Chair by 4 votes to 2.

06/CIV/27 HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL OPINION

The Principal Auditor introduced the report. In response to the actual work undertaken in 2005/06 against the original programme for the year, the Committee noted that there had been numerous vacancies in the section during the year.

A member asked a question about the grant applications within the Housing Support Service (para 6.1) and was advised that it was not the Council which gave the grants.

Resolved –

That having reviewed report, that the Head of Internal Audit's Opinion be accepted.

06/CIV/28 ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK AND STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The Committee had received a presentation from the Head of Internal Audit prior to the committee highlighting the issues to be considered. The Principal Auditor introduced the report. The Chair stated that having read the report he was satisfied with the approach set out. He asked for the Council's Constitution to be updated to include the amended Terms of Reference (second bullet point in 4.1)

Resolved –

That having reviewed the draft SIC and incorporated officer action plan, to request the Director of Finance to advise the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive on the implications of this review.

06/CIV/29 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Head of Accounting Services introduced the report. The Committee commended the officers for producing the Accounts a month earlier than last year and within the new statutory guidelines. The Committee noted that the Accounts were still subject to approval by the External Auditors. The Committee will be advised of any alterations made to the Accounts on completion of the audit.

The Committee were advised of two amendments to the report: page 19: Physical Assets Held; 'shared ownership' replace 1,002 with 99 and 1,025 with 100. Page 30 Reconciliation of Net Surplus...'Revenue financing of capital' replace (9,825) with (12,006) 'Other non cash transactions' replace (443) with 1,738.

The Head of Accounting Services highlighted for members the key accounting changes made in the preparation of the accounts from those of the previous financial year. Members were also provided with an explanation of the next stages in the audit and finalisation of the accounts, including the provisions made for public inspection and the opportunity for the electorate to put questions to the External Auditor.

The proposal to produce summary accounts in a format more suitable for the general public/lay person to understand was also confirmed.

Resolved -

1) To approve the draft Statement of Accounts for year ending 31 March 2006.

2) That Councillor Boyce be authorised as Chair of the Committee to sign the Statement of Accounts for year ending 31 March 2006 on behalf of the Council

06/CIV/30 DETERMINATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AT EAST AREA COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that the matter would be considered at its November meeting. Further statistical information to compare area committee workloads had also been requested.

06/CIV/31 WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Chair ruled under 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the late information item on the work of the Panel be noted. The Committee noted that a meeting in July would be set up with the Panel, Chair, and spokes to set the arrangements for the 2006/07 Panel's report .

The meeting ended at 6.40pm

CHAIR