

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Monday, 24th January, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor G Driver in the Chair
Councillors P Grahame, C Campbell,
G Kirkland, A Lowe, Tollefson, S Smith,
J Elliott, W Hyde and J Lewis

Co-optee G Tollefson

Apologies Councillors N Taggart, P Harrand and
T Hanley

78 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

79 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

80 Late Items

There were no late items submitted to the agenda for consideration.

81 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest made.

82 Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor P Harrand, Councillor T Hanley and Councillor N Taggart.

83 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee meeting held on 14th December 2010 were approved as a correct record, subject to the addition of the apologies received from Councillors S Smith and P Grahame.

84 RIPA Policy and Quarterly Reports

The Head of Property Finance and Technology from Corporate Governance presented a report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods. The report advised Members about the outcome of the latest Office of Surveillance Commissioners Inspection report, in relation to the use of directed surveillance, and also the outcome of an inspection by the Interception of Communications Commissioner's Office in relation to the acquisition of communications data. The report also proposed consequential changes to the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) policy.

The Committee noted the report and considered the types of cases that are acted on by the Council. The Committee also discussed that the review of the RIPA policy will take place annually.

The Committee sought assurance that the supplier which considered whether applications for data complied with the requirements of RIPA on behalf of the Council and that was also criticised by the Interception of Communications Commissioner's Office, had been removed.

RESOLVED - The Committee resolved to:

- (a) note the proposed amendments to the RIPA Policy which will be presented to the Executive Board for approval; and
- (b) note the outcomes of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners Inspection report and the Interception of Communications Commissioner's Office inspection report, and in relation to the latter to note that an appropriate action plan has been agreed.

85 Proposed Changes to the Leeds Initiative Partnership and the City Planning

The Head Leeds Initiative and International Partnerships presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement). The report set out the changes to partnership structures and planning arrangements operating at a strategic level in Leeds.

The Committee discussed the report and highlighted the importance of working with the right partners so to achieve Council objectives. The Committee also raised concerns about the governance arrangements of partnerships and how good governance would be achieved.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to:

- (a) note the governance implications of the revised structures of the Leeds Initiative and the planning framework for the City; and
- (b) request a further report detailing the governance arrangements for the revised partnership structures and strategic planning arrangements.

86 Annual Audit Inspection Letter

The Principal Finance Manager (Financial Management) presented a report of the Director of Resources. The report summarised the key external audit findings for the 2009/10 financial year. Two representatives from KPMG presented further details on the findings, namely Alison Ormston (Senior Audit Manager at KPMG) and Steve Clark (Director of KPMG).

The Committee discussed the Annual Audit Letter with the representatives of KPMG. Particular concern was raised over the value for money received for the services provided by KPMG in light of the economic challenges facing the Council.

RESOLVED - The Committee resolved to:

- (a) note the key external audit issues arising from the 2009/10 audit process; and
- (b) to discuss KPMG's charging fees at a future meeting.

87 Work Programme

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) submitted a report notifying Members of the draft work programme.

The Committee reviewed its forthcoming work programme.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to:

- a) note the draft work programme; and
- b) request that the Local Enterprise Partnerships item, currently unscheduled, be scheduled for a meeting before May 2011.