

Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Wednesday, 17th March, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor G Latty in the Chair
Councillors M Wilkinson, D Blackburn,
G Driver, P Grahame, G Latty, N Taggart,
C Campbell, G Kirkland and T Leadley

Co-optee Mr M Wilkinson

Apologies Councillor J Bale

98 Appointment of The Chair

In the absence of the sitting Chair a new Chair was required to be elected by the Committee. Councillor G Latty was nominated and seconded for the position of Chair and was un-opposed.

99 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

100 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

101 Late Items

There were no late items added to the agenda.

102 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were declared.

103 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Bale.

104 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – The minutes of the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee meeting held on 10 February 2010 be approved as a correct record.

105 Minutes of The Standards Committee

RESOLVED – The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 17 February 2010 be noted.

106 Overview of Council and partner responses to anti-social behaviour

The Chief Officer Community Safety presented a report which provided an overview of anti-social behaviour, the services that respond to it and the process review being conducted by Safer Leeds.

Members particularly discussed:

- the current difficulties in knowing which agency is best to contact where anti social behaviour is encountered; and
- the importance of the different agencies involved in responding to anti-social behaviour working closely together;

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to:

- (a) note the contents of the report; and
- (b) request that a further report be submitted detailing the results of the anti-social behaviour process review.

Councillor Taggart entered the meeting during the discussion of this item at 10.23 am.

107 The Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children's services in Leeds

The Deputy Director of Children's Services and the Chief Officer (Children's Services) presented a report of the Director of Children's Services which detailed the outcomes of the Ofsted and care quality Commission announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children's services in Leeds. Which had been published on 7th January 2010.

Members particularly discussed the governance arrangements in place for control and good management of Children's Services particularly around;

- information sharing;
- care management and review; and
- resource allocation.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to:

- (a) note the findings of the announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children's services and the improvement work that is currently taking place;
- (b) request that a further report be submitted to the Committee to provide assurance that arrangements described in response to the inspection are operating as intended;
- (c) request that a report be submitted detailing the wider corporate performance management governance adopted by the authority, that

enables early warning of possible severe failure, rather than relying on inspection from external bodies.

Councillor Driver arrived during the discussion of this item at 11:10 am.

108 Remuneration Committee

The Head of Human Resources Strategy presented a report of the Director of Resources and Acting Deputy Chief Executive updating and consulting the Committee on considerations for establishing a Remuneration Committee following a previous report on 13th January 2010 regarding the current arrangements.

Members particularly discussed the importance of the emerging proposals, ensuring that there is clarity and consistency in where decisions on senior officer remuneration are taken and that there is transparency in documenting those decisions. Discussion also took place on the positives and negatives of the report being sent to the General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to:

- (a) by a majority vote request that the Head of Human Resources Strategy takes account of the Committees views in the planned future report to General Purposes Committee; and
- (b) be kept informed of further developments in relation to the creation of a Remuneration Committee.

109 International Financial Reporting Standards

The Principal Finance Manager (Resources) presented a report of the Director of Resources to provide assurance to Members that there is an appropriate structure in place to successfully implement International Financial Reporting Standards. In addition the report updated members as to the latest position in respect of the potential financial implications of these accounting changes.

Members particularly discussed the changes brought about by the International Financial Reporting Standards, how these would effect the accounts that are created by the Council and the potential media attention given to the Council's accounting policies.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to:

- note the framework established for planning and monitoring progress on the implementation of IFRSs;
- note the progress made to date; and
- agree to further updates on IFRS implementation in line with key milestones.

110 Certification of Completion of the Audit - Audit of the Accounts 2008/09

The Chief Officer (Financial Management) presented a report of the Director of Resources notifying the Committee as to the completion of the accounts.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to note the completion of the Audit of the Accounts for 2008/09.

111 Information Security Annual Report

The Chief Officer (Business Transformation) presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Planning and Improvement). The report was the annual Information Security report and informed the Committee on the steps being taken to improve Leeds City Council's information security in order to provide assurance for the annual governance statement.

Members discussed the information security arrangements at the Council particularly the work undertaken to encrypt laptop computers and memory sticks.

Further Members highlighted the threat of information security breaches and the detrimental effect such breaches could have on the Council.

RESOLVED - The Committee resolved to:

- (a) note the contents of the report; and
- (b) request that a report be submitted detailing any attempted security breaches that the Council has been subject to and the work done to reduce the impact and mitigate against such attempts.

112 Decision Making and Managing Performance

The Chief Officer (Business Transformation) presented his report which explained the arrangements in place to ensure the Council produces relevant, reliable data and information to support decision making and manage performance as defined by the Audit Commission's CAA, Use of Resources Assessment.

Members congratulated the Chief Officer (Business Transformation) on a good report.

Members particularly discussed how population figures are arrived at and who produces population figures.

Further Members highlighted the need for care when using information received from other sources to ensure that it is of good quality and accurate in order for it to be used to identify Council priorities.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to note the contents of the report.

113 Work Programme

The Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) submitted a report notifying Members of the draft work programme for the remainder of the 2009/10 municipal year and the start of 2010/11.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to note the draft work programme.