

AUDIT COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

15th December, 2009

Chairman: Councillor J.Dinham

Vice Chairman: Councillor J.Miller

Councillors: Mrs.A.P.Davies, Mrs.R.Davies, I.B.James,
Mrs.D.Jones, S.Jones, F.H.Little and A.J.Taylor

Officers in Attendance: H.Jenkins, D.Rees, S.Vaughan, J.Southam and
Ms.C.Grocutt

Wales Audit Office: Ms.J.McNicholas

1. PRESENTATION ON HOUSING BENEFITS

Members received an illustrated presentation on the work undertaken by the Authority to counter Housing Benefit Fraud. Mr.S.Vaughan gave an overview of the Fraud Investigation Team and its aims and objectives. These included minimising fraud and error, saving public funds, and promoting a positive image of the Council.

Members were pleased with the work undertaken by the Team and it was noted that Neath Port Talbot was the only Local Authority in Wales which had a service legal agreement with the Police. A press release would be issued after Christmas publicising the work of the partnership and emphasising that benefit crime would not be tolerated.

2. MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 29th September, 2009, be noted.

Report of the Wales Audit Office

3. **PROPOSED AUDIT WORK PLAN FOR 2009/2010**

The Committee received a copy of the Wales Audit Office's proposed work plan for the 2009/10 financial audit of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Members noted the work to be undertaken which included looking at all the financial systems and accounts outlined in the circulated report.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services

4. **INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE – PROGRESS REPORT**

The circulated report contained details of the work undertaken, for the period from the 1st September to the 30th November, 2009, and also the progress made against the 2009/10 Internal Audit Plan.

It was noted that there were no outstanding major issues which required to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

Members were given a presentation on the performance indicators for 2009/10 against target, and reasons for any significant variance.

It was noted that in recent months there had been a number of special investigations carried out. As a result of the resources required, this could impact on the completion of the Plan.

RESOLVED: that the above mentioned report be noted.

CHAIRMAN