

AUDIT COMMITTEE

(Port Talbot Civic Centre, Committee Rooms 1/2)

Members Present:

24 September 2015

Chairperson: Councillor Mrs.L.H.James

Vice Chairperson: Councillor J.D.Morgan

Councillors: Mrs.R.Davies, J.S.Evans, M.Harvey, D.Keogh
and A.R.Lockyer

Officers In Attendance D.Rees, Miss A.O'Donnell and
Mrs.J.McNicholas

Representing the Wales Audit Office: R.Harries

Voting Lay Member: Mrs.J.Jenkins

1. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS.**

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Councillor R.Davies - Report of the Head of Financial Services–Agenda Item 9– Special Investigations– as Councillor Mrs.R.Davies is a Governor to Godregraig primary School

The following Officers made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

D.Rees - Report of the Head of Financial Services–Agenda Item 9– Special Investigations– as he is involved in the appeal hearing to reports 9 and 13 within the circulated report.

Miss.A.M.O'Donnell

- Report of the Head of Financial Services–Agenda Item 9– Special Investigations– as she is involved in the appeal hearing to reports 9 and 13 within the circulated report.

2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 26TH JUNE 2015**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 26 June 2015, be approved.

3. **CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2014/15**

The circulated report contained details of the audited Annual Statement of Accounts which required approval by members prior to the 30th September, 2015. The Draft Statement of Accounts had been provided to the Wales Audit Office on the 15 June 2014, and the audit had now been completed. The Accounts had been updated as part of the Audit process and accordingly the updated final Statement of Accounts was contained in Addendum 1 to the circulated report.

Members thanked the officers for the work undertaken.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Members approve the Letter of Representation;
- 2) The final 2014/15 Statement of Accounts as included in the Addendum is approved by Members;
- 3) The Chair of the Audit Committee be authorised to sign the Letter of Representation and the Statement of Accounts;
- 4) Officers are tasked with continuing to make improvements to the accounts preparation process to ensure continued improvements are achieved.

4. **INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE - PROGRESS REPORT TO 31ST AUGUST 2015**

Members received details of the work undertaken by Internal Audit for the period 1st June 2015 to the 31st August 2015, together with an update on progress made against the 2014/15 Internal Audit Plan.

It was highlighted on page 176, that the audit of settlement agreements was almost complete, Miss A.M.O'Donnell required more information before finalising the work and would report back at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted

5. **UPDATE ON GRANT MANAGEMENT CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS**

Members were updated as to the proposed changes to control arrangements of external grants. The process was a work in progress and further updates would be provided to the Committee at future meetings.

RESOLVED: that the ongoing 'work in progress' surrounding grant management control arrangements in the Council be noted.

6. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MONITORING 2015/16**

Members received information on items which included Bank Base Rates, Borrowing and Investment Income, as detailed within the circulated report.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

7. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

8. **SPECIAL INVESTIGATION**

Members were provided with details on the special investigations recently completed and provided with a verbal update of the special investigations that are currently in progress.

The Chairperson agreed not to discuss Report No 9 and 13 within the circulated report, due to the declarations made at the commencement of the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

CHAIRPERSON