

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON 15 DECEMBER 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Brady (in the Chair)
Councillor Friel (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Brennan, Lord Fearn, McIvor, Parry,
Robertson and Shaw

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. P. Chambers from PricewaterhouseCoopers

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Maher and Tonkiss and Councillors Fairclough and S. Mainey (Substitute Members).

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was made:-

Member	Minute No.	Reason	Action
Councillor Brennan	28 - Internal Audit Plan 2010/11	Personal - His employer is involved with one of the fraud cases referred to in the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon.

23. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 29 September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

24. EXTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2009/10

Mr. P. Chambers from PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Council's external auditors, presented the Council's Annual Audit letter which provided an overall summary of the results of the audit work undertaken on accounting matters and systems of internal control during 2009/10, the unqualified conclusion on the adequacy of the Council's arrangements for its Use of Resources on 26 October 2010, the review of the Council's Annual Governance Statement and an update on the audit fees for 2009/10.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Audit letter for 2009/10 be noted.

25. EXTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2010/11

Mr. P. Chambers from PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Council's external auditors, presented a report setting out the audit and inspection work to be undertaken during the 2010/11 financial year, which included an analysis of key risks, the proposed approach to be taken by the external auditors, the reporting and audit timetable and details of the indicative audit fee for 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the External Audit Plan for 2010/11 be noted; and
- (2) further to Minute No. 35(5) of 25 March 2009 and Minute No. 114 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Corporate Services of 29 April 2009, Mr. Chambers be requested to ensure that the Plan takes account of the comments made by this Committee last year about responsibilities and liabilities in relation to electronic communication and the potential for data being lost.

26. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2010/11 - MID YEAR REVIEW

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy reviewing the Treasury Management activities undertaken in the first half of 2010/11 against the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy document 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

27. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. The Public Interest Test had been applied and favoured exclusion of the information from the press and public.

**28. INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2010/11 PERFORMANCE REPORT -
APRIL TO NOVEMBER 2010**

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy which provided a summary of internal audit work

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undertaken during the period April to November 2010. The report also provided a summary of the work undertaken by the arvato Benefit Fraud Investigation Team during the period September to November 2010.

The Committee was required to be apprised of the Internal Audit and Benefit Fraud Investigation Team work as part of its review of the internal control environment and overall governance arrangements.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

29. INTERNAL AUDIT FRAUD REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy which provided a summary of the proactive and reactive anti-fraud and investigation work undertaken during the period April to November 2010 by the Internal Audit Team.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

30. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER - UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy which provided an update on the Corporate Risk Register.

RESOLVED:

That the updated Corporate Risk Register be approved.