

(AG.25)
Decisions to be considered by
Full Council on 21 February 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE held at 9.30am on Wednesday 25 January 2012 at the Civic Centre, Stone Cross, Northallerton

Present

Councillor J N Smith (In the Chair)

Councillor D E Adamson
Mrs C S Cookman
G W Dadd

Councillor Mrs B S Fortune
R W Hudson
M Rigby

AG.25

CONSTITUTION – REVIEW OF PROCEDURE RULES

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Head of Legal Services asked the Committee to consider reviewing those aspects of the Procedure Rules which dealt with governance as part of the agreed review programme for the Constitution.

The proposed changes to Procedure Rules included removal of the prohibiting of recording of meetings, to allow as much openness and transparency in Council procedures as possible: removal of the requirement to provide written notice to the Chief Executive before non-Committee or non-Cabinet Members can address the Committee or Cabinet and the removal of reference to the Scrutiny Management Board which has been discontinued.

Alternative options considered:

None

The reason for the decision:

The Committee was satisfied with the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution.

THE DECISION:

To recommend to Council that the following amendments be made to the Constitution:

- (1) delete paragraph 19.2 of the Council Procedure Rules to allow the recording of meetings;
- (2) amend paragraph 26 of the Council Procedure Rules and paragraph 2.2 of the Cabinet Procedures Rules so that written notice does not have to be given to the Chief Executive by a Member who wishes to speak at a meeting: and

- (3) that references to the Scrutiny Management Board be deleted.

The meeting closed at 10.40am

Chairman of the Committee

Present

Councillor J N Smith (In the Chair)

Councillor D E Adamson
Mrs C S Cookman
G W Dadd

Councillor Mrs B S Fortune
R W Hudson
M Rigby

AG.26

MINUTES

THE DECISION:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 October 2011 (AG.19 - AG.24), previously circulated, be signed as a correct record.

AG.27

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

THE DECISION:

That Councillor R W Hudson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the civic year.

AG.28

REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT – REVIEW OF ACTIVITY

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Head of Legal Services presented a report advising the Committee that the Council, like many public authorities, was governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). This Act ensured that public authorities complied with their obligations under the Human Rights Act when undertaking investigations which might interfere with the rights of individuals. The Act introduced safeguards on activities such as surveillance undertaken by public bodies. The Committee had now been given responsibility for RIPA matters. This would involve the Committee receiving quarterly reports on any activities which had been authorised under RIPA.

Alternative options considered:

None

The reason for the decision:

To comply with the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)

THE DECISION:

That it be noted that no RIPA activity was undertaken by the Council in the last six months of 2011.

AG.29

STATUTORY AUDITOR – QUARTERLY UPDATE

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Head of Finance provided an opportunity for the Council's statutory auditor, Deloitte, to give an update to the Committee on its activities to date.

Sarah Anderson from Deloitte attended the meeting to provide the update and answer questions.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To respond to a request from the Committee.

THE DECISION:

That the comments of the auditor on his quarterly update be noted.

AG.30

STATUTORY AUDITOR – ANNUAL GRANT CLAIMS AND RETURNS REPORT 2010/11

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Head of Finance presented the Statutory Auditor's Annual Grant Claims and Returns Report for 2010/11.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the Statutory Auditor's Annual Grant Claims and Returns Report for 2010/11.

THE DECISION:

That the Statutory Auditor's Annual Grant Claims and Returns Report for 2010/11 be received.

AG.31

STATUTORY AUDITOR – ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Head of Finance presented a report on the Statutory Auditor's Annual Audit Letter summarising the conclusions and significant issues, arising from the Auditor's audit and inspection work for the financial year 2010/11.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the Statutory Auditor's Annual Audit and Inspection Letter for 2010/11.

THE DECISION:

That the Statutory Auditor's Annual Audit Letter for 2010/11 be received.

AG.32

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE AUDIT VISION AND CHARTER

All Wards

The subject of the decision:

The Head of Finance presented a revised Audit Vision and Charter. The Internal Audit service provided within the Council currently through the North Yorkshire Audit Partnership (NYAP), which is a partnership agreement between the five North Yorkshire Councils. This Partnership Agreement ends on 31 March 2012 and the successor arrangements are that the internal audit service at Hambleton will be provided by Veritau North Yorkshire (VNY) which is a regulated company created between the 5 District Councils of the existing Partnership and Veritau, the regulated company formed by North Yorkshire County Council and the City of York Council. The strength, range and quality of service was reinforced through an Audit Vision and Charter.

Alternative options considered:

None

The reasons for the decision:

To approve the revision of the Audit Vision and Charter

THE DECISION:

That the revised Audit Vision and Charter Statement be approved.

AG.33

INTERNAL AUDIT Q2+ REPORT 2011-12

All Wards

The subject to the decision:

The Head of Finance presented the Q2 + Internal Audit Report for 2011/12. As most services were provided jointly with Richmondshire District Council the report was joint but identified any issue specific to the particular Council.

Alternative options considered:

None.

The reason for the decision:

To take account of the performance of the Internal Audit Section in the last quarter of 2011/12.

THE DECISION:

That the progress report for 2011/12 be approved.

The meeting closed at 10.40am

Chairman of the Committee