

AT A MEETING of the AUDIT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 30 June 2011.

PRESENT:

p Councillor K. Evans (Chairman)

p J. Bryant
p V. Clarke
p B. Dash
a J. Frankum

p M. Geddes
p A. Gibson
a E. Neal
a C. Thomas

Hassan Rohimun, Audit Manager of the Audit Commission also attended this meeting.

93 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Neal and C. Thomas.

94 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believed they had a personal or prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting were asked to declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with paragraph 12 of the Code. The declaration should be made at the time of the relevant debate.

95 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

96 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

There were no announcements by the Chairman

97 AUDIT COMMISSION – PROGRESS REPORT

Hassan Rohimun from the Audit Commission presented the Progress Report, (Item 5 in the Minute Book). He confirmed that there had been little progress since March, however work was due to begin imminently.

The Committee welcomed the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Audit Commission's Progress Report be received and noted.

98 CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR – ANNUAL REPORT AND OPINION

The Committee considered the report of the County Treasurer (Item 6 in the Minute Book) giving the annual report and opinion of the Chief Internal Auditor.

The Chief Internal Auditor outlined the report to Members, explaining in particular the basis of the opinions that were expressed in it. The quantity of audit work carried out over the year was noted by Members, who also acknowledged that it was acceptable that some reviews remained incomplete and were carried into the new financial year. The level of National Fraud Initiative (NFI) matches was questioned and it was explained that it was common for a large number of matches to arise and that the majority were quickly discounted.

Levels of productivity were discussed and it was noted that the figures given in the report were slightly misleading as they were based on national benchmarks. It was agreed that in the future a calculation more meaningful for the work carried out in Hampshire County Council should be used.

There was a brief discussion regarding changing relationships with Hampshire schools converting to academy status.

RESOLVED:

That the Audit Committee accepts the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report and opinion statement for 2010/11

99 PENSION FUND PANEL – MINUTES OF MEETINGS (FOR INFORMATION)

Councillor Dash declared a non-prejudicial interest as a Member of the Pension Fund Panel.

The Committee received the Minutes of the Pension Fund Panel meetings held on 15 December 2010, the 12 April 2011 and the 27 May 2011 (Items 7(a), 7(b) and 7(c) in the Minute Book). In particular it was noted that the training for Pension Fund Panel Members (Minute 134) had been well received and it was proposed that Audit Committee Members be invited to forthcoming training.

100 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, in relation to the following item, the public be excluded from the meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings that if members of the public are present during the item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

101 **MINUTES OF PENSION FUND PANEL MEETINGS - 11 AND 18
JUNE 2010 (EXEMPT APPENDICES)**

The Committee received the exempt Minutes of the Pension Fund Panel meetings held on 15 December 2010, the 12 April 2011 and the 27 May 2011 (Items 9(a), 9(b) and 9(c) in the Minute Book).

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