

AT A MEETING of the AUDIT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on 26 September 2013.

PRESENT:

p Councillor Keith Evans (Chairman)

p John Bennison  
p Vaughan Clarke  
a Adrian Collett  
a Andrew Gibson

p Roger Huxstep  
p Tony Hooke  
p Mark Kemp-Gee  
p George Ringrow

Hassan Rohimun, Audit Manager of Ernst & Young also attended this meeting.

Prior to the commencement of this meeting, Members received training on the Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 and the role of the Audit Committee.

**13. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adrian Collett and Andrew Gibson.

**14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting were asked to declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore all Members with a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

**15. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**16. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman advised the Committee of his recent attendance at a Pension Fund Panel training event, which included matters relating to LGPS and Investment and Benefit Frameworks. He informed the Committee that he found the event both helpful and informative.

17. **INFORMATION COMPLIANCE – USE OF REGULATED INVESTIGATORY POWERS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policy and Governance- Corporate Services (Item 5 in the Minute Book) on the use of Regulated Investigatory Powers by the County Council for the period 2012-2013.

Members were advised that, in accordance with the Codes of Practice issued by the Home Office, the figures on the number and nature of the County Council's use of surveillance powers were being provided to the Committee on a quarterly basis and that this would be supported by a regular annual detailed report.

**RESOLVED:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

18. **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) detailing internal audit activity against assurance work completed in accordance with the approved audit plan. It also provided an overview of the status of "live" reports.

**RESOLVED:**

That the internal audit status of work report for the period up to August 2013 be noted

19. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT**

The Committee received the Annual Governance Reports from the external auditors, Ernst and Young for both Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Pension Fund (Items 7a and 7b in the Minute Book respectively).

Members were advised that the County Council continued to be financially resilient and that arrangements were in place to develop sustainable solutions to the required savings in the future. It was also noted that it was the auditor's intention to issue an unqualified audit opinion for both the Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Pension Fund accounts

**RESOLVED:**

That the annual governance reports for both Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Pension Fund be noted.

20. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) detailing the Statement of Accounts for 2012/13.

Members raised a number of questions and queries which were answered at the meeting. The Director also advised that there were no expected changes to be made to the Accounts following this meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- i. That the Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.
- ii. That the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services be given delegated authority to approve any minor amendments to the Statement of Accounts.

**21. MINUTES OF PENSION FUND PANEL MEETING – 7 JUNE 2013**

The Committee received and noted the minutes of the Pension Fund Panel meeting on 7 June 2013 (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

**22. EXCLUSION OF 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.

**23. EXEMPT MINUTES OF PENSION FUND PANEL MEETINGS (FOR INFORMATION)**

The Committee received and noted the exempt appendix to Item 9 above (Item 11 in the Minute Book).