

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Wednesday, 4 March 2009.

PRESENT: Mr C G Findlay (Chairman), Mr R L H Long, TD (Vice-Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr J Curwood (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr R J Parry), Mrs T Dean, Mr W A Hayton, Mr C Hibberd (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr M V Snelling), Mr J F London, Mrs M Newell, Mr M J Northey (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr A R Chell), Mr D Smyth and Mr R Tolputt

OFFICERS: Ms L McMullan (Director of Finance), Mr P Mulholland (Group Leader, Property and Commercial), Ms J Dawson (Head of Audit and Risk), Mr S Davis (Audit & Risk), Mrs J Armstrong (Senior Audit Manager), Ms A Beer (Director Of Personnel & Development), Ms N Lodemore (Personnel Policy Manager), Mr P Bole (Head Of I C T Commissioning), Mr R Fitzgerald (Performance Monitoring Manager), Ms J Hill (Performance Manager), Mrs D Mattingly (Corporate Risk & Insurance Manager) and Mr A Tait (Democratic Services Officer)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Wells of the Audit Commission.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Minutes - 2 December 2008
(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2008 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

2. Internal Audit Progress Report
(Item 4)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

3. Internal Audit Reporting - Irregularities
(Item 5)

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4. 2009/10 Internal Audit Plan
(Item 6)

RESOLVED that approval be given to the draft Internal Audit Plan and proposed work programme.

5. External Audit Progress report

(Item 7)

(1) Mr D Wells from the Audit Commission was present for this item to introduce the report.

(2) RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6. Audit Commission Internal Audit Review 2007/08

(Item 8)

(1) RESOLVED that the external auditor's report be received and its recommendations noted.

7. Audit Commission Review of Use of Resources

(Item 9)

RESOLVED that the external auditor's report be received and its recommendations noted.

8. Directorate Risk Registers

(Item 10)

RESOLVED that the revised risk registers be noted.

9. An Anti Fraud Strategy for KCC

(Item 11)

(1) The Committee agreed to amend the draft Whistleblowing Strategy through the inclusion of an additional statement within its Introduction that the County Council regards whistleblowing as an entirely positive benefit.

(2) RESOLVED that :-

(a) the promotion of a counter-fraud culture within the County Council be endorsed; and

(b) approval be given to the Anti-Fraud strategy set out in Appendix 1 of the report subject to paragraph (1) above.

10. Data Quality Audit 2007/08

(Item 12)

RESOLVED that:-

(a) approval be given to the action plan set out in Appendix 1 of the report;

- (a) the Policy Overview Committees be asked to discuss the Data Quality audit in order to engage Members more fully with data quality issues; and
- (c) the report be referred to the Informal Member Group: Member Information.

11. KCC Annual Complaints Report 2007/08
(Item 13)

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the proposed changes from 2009 supported.

12. Health, Wellbeing and Attendance Action Plan
(Item 14)

RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the work underway to address health, well-being and attendance be noted; and
- (b) a report giving greater detail on the work around well-being be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

13. IT Solutions for the provision of key services (Presentation on the response to a key risk identified by Committee Members)
(Item 16)

- (1) The Head of ICT Commissioning gave a presentation on the risk to service associated with the County Council's increasing use of information technology.
- (2) RESOLVED that Mr Bole be thanked for his presentation and that the level of risk to service (in direct proportion to the level of reliance on the technology deployed) be noted.

14. Superannuation Fund Audit Plan for 2008/09
(Item 15)

The Chairman informed the Committee that this matter would be considered by the Superannuation Fund Committee.