

AUDIT COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Audit Committee held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Rosebery Place, Clydebank on Wednesday 21 August 2002 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Craig McLaughlin, Danny McCafferty, John Syme and John Trainer.

Attending: Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; David Connell, Manager of Accounting; Vincent Gardner, Manager of Exchequer; Colin McDougall, Principal Internal Auditor; Lorraine Coyne, Manager of Audit; Elaine Barrowman, Senior Audit Manager (Audit Scotland), James Alexander, Manager of Infrastructure, Information Services and Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Andrew White.

Councillor Craig McLaughlin in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 20 March 2002 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS (PWC) FINAL REPORT TO MEMBERS 2000/01 - ACTION POINTS

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing a further update on the action points contained within the Final Report to Members 2000/01.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Corporate Services and the Manager of the Exchequer in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to remove this item from the list of standing items on future agendas; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

AUDIT COMMISSION REPORT ON SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising Members of the terms of the letter received from Audit Scotland in relation to the overspend in the Education Department at Scottish Borders Council.

Having heard the Director of Corporate Services in answer to Members' questions, questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that copies of the Controller of Audit's Report on the Scottish Borders Council Education Department's overspend, dated 4 October 2001, be made available to Members upon request;
- (2) to ensure that those persons within Education, who are responsible for budgets in the devolved school management scheme, be made aware of this report; and
- (3) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2002

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising Members of the work undertaken by the Internal Audit Section against the Audit Plan 2001/02.

Having heard the Manager of Audit in further explanation, the Committee agreed to note the report.

HOUSING AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT: THE VERIFICATION FRAMEWORK

A report was submitted by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services advising of the progress made on the introduction of the Verification Framework.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Corporate Services in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that implementation of the Verification Framework was on target to start on a phased basis from end of September 2002;
- (2) that copies of the new claim form, which would be introduced on a trial basis for new claims from September 2002, would be given to Members; and
- (3) otherwise to note the report.

CORPORATE ICT SECURITY POLICY

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising Members of the terms of the Council's Corporate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Security Policy and Internet Security Policy.

In this respect, the Committee had under consideration the administration of the aforementioned policies.

After discussion and having heard the Manager of Infrastructure, Information Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the Convener would meet with Councillor Syme, the Director of Corporate Services, a member of internal audit and the Manager of Infrastructure, Information Services, to discuss the operation of the Council's current Corporate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Security Policy and Internet Policy and ways in which the administration potentially could be improved; and
- (2) otherwise to note the report.

The Meeting closed at 2.40 p.m.